



MISSOURI ECONOMIC & WORKFORCE REPORT

2021



2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

COVID-19

UPDATES

The 2021 Missouri Economic and Workforce Report gives a broad overview of Missouri's economy in the last year, tracking a selection of meaningful indicators. At the time of publishing this report, Missouri's economy is in recovery from the health and economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, as are the U.S. and world economies.

The data contained in this report largely focuses on economic activity in Missouri during the most recent calendar year, using a variety of the most reliable and proven economic and workforce data resources available. Typically, these high-quality sources have some lag in publication due to the sound and thorough methodologies used to ensure accurate and reliable data. Analysis of economic shifts will always rely on these key sources for the most precise representation of the economy, and Missouri will continue to monitor these indicators throughout the state's economic recovery. It is valuable to have a comprehensive review of the state's economy, even if some of the indicators lag.

2020 was an extraordinary year in many ways, including economically. The first half of the year was marked by historic losses in employment and output, as businesses and activities were limited due to the pandemic. Income and personal savings rates peaked, as economic support payments were distributed and consumers had few opportunities for spending. The second half of 2020 was defined by the beginning of economic recovery, in both employment and domestic output. Many of the annual averages in this report tell that story – showing decline, improvement in a snapshot of the most current data when available, and that there is still recovery to occur in 2021 and beyond.

Future annual economic reports will begin to show if there are permanent economic shifts from the pandemic, either in accelerating existing trends or pivoting the economy in unexpected ways. To track the most current trends, visit the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center website at meric.mo.gov.

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SHOW ME

THE FACTS

- Missouri's GDP totaled \$277.4 billion in 2020 in 2012 inflation-adjusted dollars, a 3.6 percent decrease over the previous year.
- Missouri's per capita personal income was \$51,177 in 2020, up 5.2 percent from 2019. Personal income increased in 2020 due to additional government payments to support economic recovery.
- Due to the pandemic, 17 out of 20 industry sectors lost jobs between 2019 and 2020.
- The *Accommodation and Food Services* sector experienced the largest employment drop, with 44,678 jobs lost. The largest percentage loss was in the *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* sector, which lost 23 percent of its employment. Most industries have shown signs of recovery in late 2020 and early 2021.
- In July 2021, Missouri's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, an improvement from 6.8 percent in July 2020.
- From July 2019 to July 2020, Missouri added 84,000 jobs, increasing employment by 3.0 percent.
- Missouri's labor force participation rate was 63.1 percent in 2020 and the U.S. rate was 61.7 percent. Both rates were impacted by workforce challenges due to COVID-19.
- Health Care, Retail Sales, Sales and Customer Service Representatives, Transportation, and Computer Software and Web Developer* jobs are the most in-demand occupations based on a measure of online job advertisements.
- The St. Louis region is the largest, in terms of employment, with over one million employees in 2020. The Kansas City and Central regions had the next highest employment with nearly 580,000 and over 306,400 employees, respectively.
- All regions in Missouri experienced negative growth in employment from 2016 to 2020. This negative growth is partly due to the effects of COVID in 2020. For some regions, this negative growth is part of an ongoing negative trend.



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CURRENT TRENDS

In 2020, Missouri's economy contracted by 3.6 points compared to the previous year. Nationally, GDP decreased 3.5 percent over the same period. The large GDP decrease from 2019 to 2020 was due to the economic effect of the COVID-19 pandemic. During 2020, GDP declined significantly in the second quarter, marking the peak of shutdowns and layoffs in response to the pandemic, and then began to recover in the second half of the year. Likewise, employment declined during 2020, but has since been in recovery. Missouri's nonfarm payroll employment decreased by 5.7 percent, or 165,000 jobs, from July 2019 to July 2020. The *Accommodation and Food Services* and *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* industries were particularly impacted by the pandemic, resulting in significant employment declines in 2020. As of July 2021, employment in Missouri grew by 3.0 percent year-over-year, with a recovery of 84,000 jobs.

In July 2021, Missouri's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, lower than both the rate of 6.8 percent in July 2020 and the peak unemployment rate of the pandemic in April 2020 of 12.5 percent. The U.S. unemployment rate was 5.4 percent in July 2021. Labor force participation in Missouri was 63.1 percent in 2020, down from 64.0 percent in 2019, but above the national average of 61.7 percent. Labor force participation rates improved during the first half of 2021, but have generally been in decline for more than a decade both in Missouri and the U.S.

All Missouri regions experienced negative growth in employment from 2016 to 2020. This negative growth is partly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic. For some regions, it is part of an ongoing negative trend. The Ozark and Northeast regions experienced the least negative growth, at -0.4 and -0.5 percent, respectively. The Central region had the next lowest negative growth at -0.7 percent.

In this annual review of the Missouri economy, changes in gross state product, personal income, civilian labor force, unemployment, and employment are analyzed for the current period and more broadly over the last five to 10 years. Moreover, in this review, special attention is paid to economic regions within Missouri, their diverse workforce, and economies.

**AS OF JULY 2021, MISSOURI EMPLOYMENT
GREW BY 3.0 PERCENT YEAR-OVER-YEAR,
WITH A RECOVERY OF 84,000 JOBS.**

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

MISSOURI

ECONOMY OVERVIEW

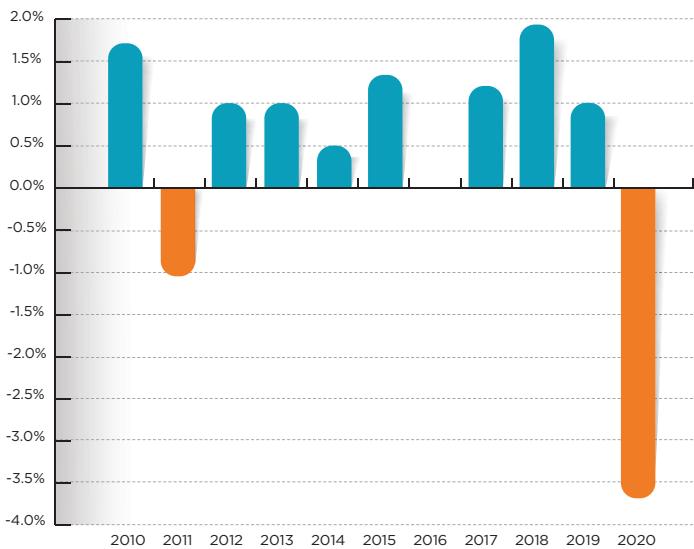


GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT (GDP)

Gross Domestic Product (GDP) is the broadest measure of economic activity. This measure tracks the market value of goods and services produced within a nation or state for a particular period of time. In 2020, Missouri's GDP was \$277.4 billion (in 2012 chained dollars); this is a 3.6 percent decrease from 2019. Nationally, GDP decreased 3.5 percent over the same period. The large GDP decrease from 2019 to 2020 was due to the economic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic.

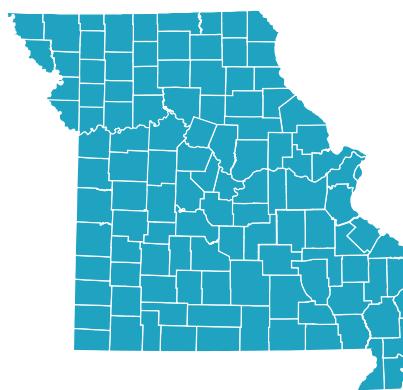
The percent decline in Missouri's GDP, from 2019 to 2020, is comparable with bordering states. All eight states experienced a decline in GDP, with four states having greater negative growth and four states having less negative growth than Missouri. Oklahoma had the greatest decline, with -6.1 percent, and Nebraska had the least, with -2.1 percent.

Missouri Real Gross State Product Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, REAL GDP IN 2012 CHAINED DOLLARS

Even though the last year has seen a large decrease in GDP, most industry sectors still experienced positive GDP growth from 2010 to 2020. The greatest gains in the past 10 years have been in the *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* industry with a 36.4 percent overall increase or 3.2 percent compound annual growth rate. Other 10-year top trends include a compound annual growth rate in *Management of Companies and Enterprises* at 2.8 percent, *Health Care and Social Assistance* at 1.4 percent, and *Administrative and Waste Services* at 1.3 percent.



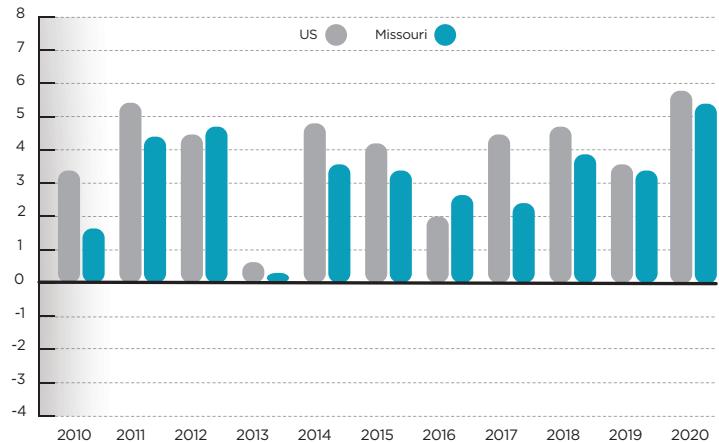
**\$277.4
BILLION GDP
3.6% ↓
FROM 2019**

In the past year, most industry sectors have experienced negative growth. The *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* industry had the largest loss, at 27 percent. *Accommodation and Food Services*, at 20.9 percent, had the next largest negative growth.

In 2010, Missouri produced \$269.1 billion in goods and services whereas in 2020, Missouri produced \$277.4 billion in goods and services.

Missouri grew at an annualized rate of 0.3 percent to equal \$8.3 billion in growth over the past 10 years, or a 3.1 percent GDP increase overall.

Personal Income Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, 2020

MISSOURI OVERVIEW

TOTAL PERSONAL INCOME

Total personal income includes the wages and salaries of workers and other income received such as dividends, interest, rent, and transfer payments. Incomes are reported before the deduction of taxes.

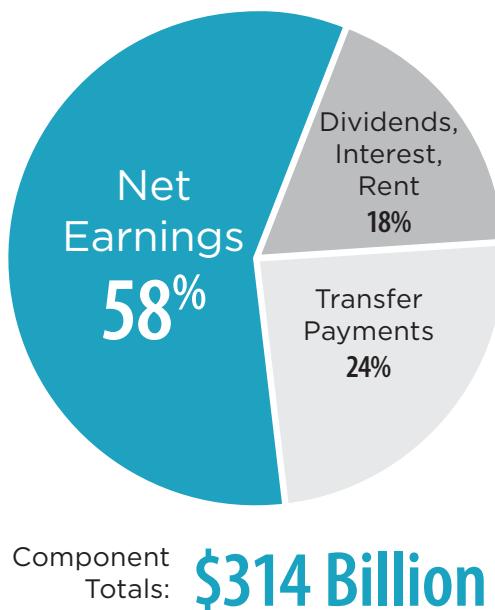
Transfer payments are monies paid out by the government to individuals through Social Security, Disability Insurance, Medicare, Unemployment Insurance compensation, Veterans benefits, Education and Training Assistance programs (Pell Grants for example), and low-income assistance benefits (which include SSI, Medicaid, CHIP, and TANF).

In 2020, Missouri's total personal income was \$314.8 billion, a 5.4 percent increase over 2019. The nation's personal income increased 6.1 percent to \$19.7 trillion. California led the nation in total personal income with more than \$2.8 trillion. Texas, New York, Florida, and Pennsylvania were in the top five.

Among surrounding states, Missouri had the sixth largest percent change in personal income from 2019 to 2020. Total personal income in Iowa increased by 6.8 percent, followed by Illinois, Kentucky, and Nebraska, increasing by 6.5 percent each.

The increase in both U.S. and Missouri personal income in 2020 was due to an increase in transfer payments. Transfer payments reflected new government relief payments provided by the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security (CARES) Act of 2020, including increases in state unemployment insurance compensation and economic recovery payments to individuals. As a result, transfer payments increased by 26 percent in Missouri and by 37 percent nationally.

Missouri Components of Personal Income



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF ECONOMIC ANALYSIS, ANNUAL PERSONAL INCOME AND EMPLOYMENT BY STATE, CURRENT DOLLARS (NOT ADJUSTED FOR INFLATION).

Net earnings accounted for 58 percent of Missouri personal income in 2020. Transfer payments accounted for 24 percent and dividends, interest and rent accounted for 18 percent. In the U.S., 59 percent of personal income was accounted for by net earnings, 22 percent by transfer payments and 19 percent by dividends, interest and rent.

Per capita personal income is a rough indicator of the economic well-being of an area's residents. Per capita income is calculated by dividing an area's total personal income by its population. The per capita personal income of a Missouri citizen in 2020 was \$51,177 and nationally it was \$59,729. While the state's per capita income is lower than the national average, so is the cost of living. In 2020, Missouri ranked sixth in lowest cost of living for all states.

UNEMPLOYMENT

The unemployment rate measures the number of persons out of work but actively seeking employment relative to the civilian labor force. As of July 2021, the nation's unemployment rate was 5.4 percent, a significant decrease from July 2020, reflecting continued recovery from the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020. Similarly, Missouri's unemployment rate was 4.2 percent, an improvement from 6.8 percent in July 2020.

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Missouri and the nation were experiencing record low unemployment numbers and a tight labor market. Unemployment spiked during the second quarter of 2020, as COVID-19 related shutdowns and layoffs impacted the economy in the U.S. and around the world. Missouri's unemployment rate rapidly declined, as more Missourians were able to return to work, but has not yet reached pre-COVID levels.

Unemployment Rate



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS.

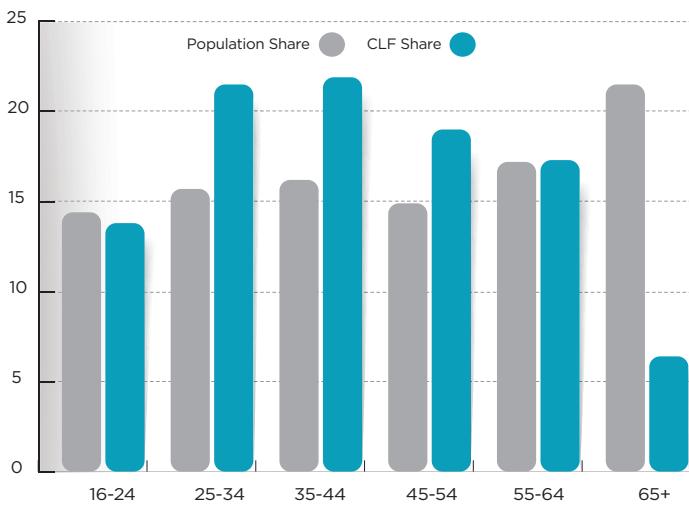
MISSOURI OVERVIEW

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

The Civilian Labor Force is defined as the number of non-institutionalized persons—16 years and older—who are either gainfully employed or are unemployed but actively seeking work. The civilian labor force in Missouri totaled just over three million in 2020. As per data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS), in 2020, the 35 to 54 age cohort comprised 31.1 percent of Missouri's population and 40.9 percent of its civilian labor force. The 65+ age cohort made up 21.5 percent of the population and 6.4 percent of the civilian labor force.

The labor force participation rate (LFPR) is the ratio of the civilian labor force to the population. The national LFPR climbed to a peak of 67 percent in 1990 where it seemed to stabilize. However, since 2001 the LFPR has been falling.

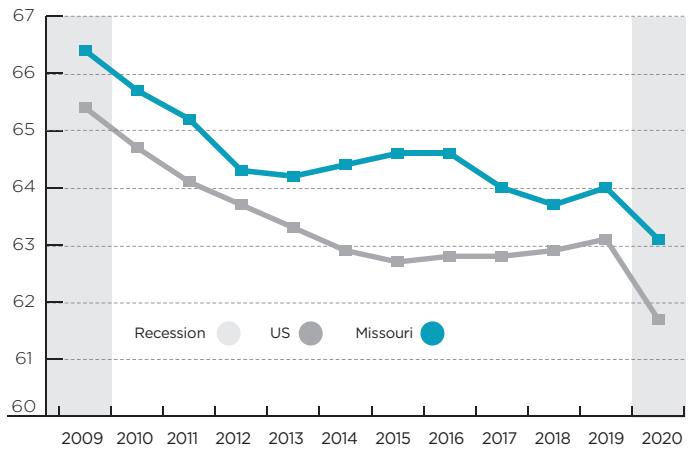
Missouri Population and Labor Force by Age Cohort



In the last 10 years, prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, Missouri's LFPR averaged between 64 to 65 percent. In 2020, it declined to 63.1 percent. Despite the decline, more Missourians—as a share of the state's working-age population—participate in the labor force when compared to the national LFPR. In 2020, Missouri's LFPR was 1.4 percentage points higher than the U.S. LFPR of 61.7 percent. Missouri's LFPR has been higher than the national average for more than a decade.

In 2020, three of Missouri's neighboring states had a higher labor force participation rate: Nebraska (69.6), Iowa (67.2), and Kansas (67.0).

Civilian Labor Force Participation Rates

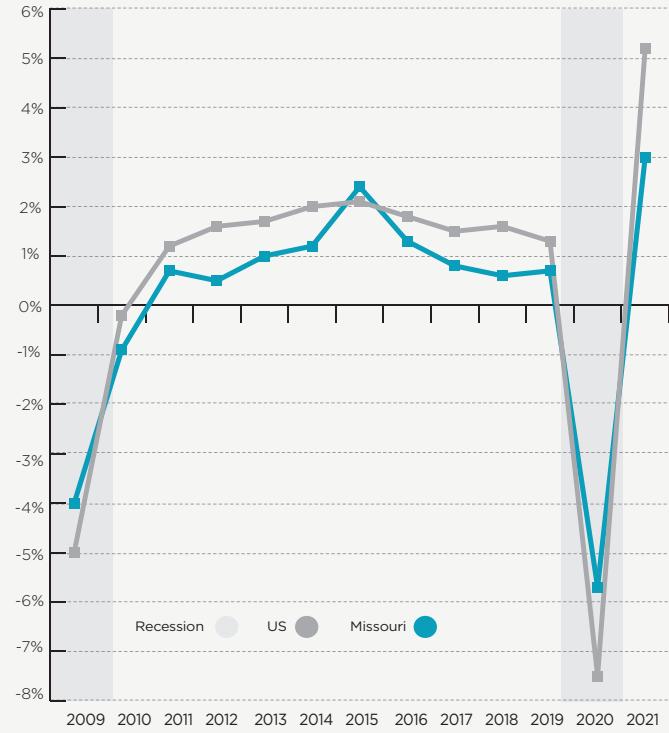


NONFARM PAYROLL EMPLOYMENT

Nonfarm payroll employment is the estimate of employment in the nonagricultural sector of the economy. Total nonfarm payroll employment peaked in 2019 in the U.S. and Missouri, following nine years of growth after the Great Recession. July 2020 nonfarm employment in the U.S. was 7.5 percent lower than in July 2019 due to the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic – a loss of more than 11 million jobs. By July 2021, employment increased by 5.2 percent, recovering more than 7 million jobs.

Statewide, Missouri's nonfarm payroll employment followed a similar trend, with a decrease of 5.7 percent, or 165,000 jobs, from July 2019 to July 2020. As of July 2021, employment has grown by 3.0 percent year-over-year, with a recovery of 84,000 jobs.

Payroll Employment Annual Growth Rate



MISSOURI OVERVIEW

EMPLOYMENT CHANGE BY INDUSTRY

Employment change by industry identifies the types of jobs being created in the state. Industries with increasing employment indicate a greater need within that sector. There are also industries that behave more cyclically, growing during economic expansion and decreasing in times of economic slowdown or contraction.

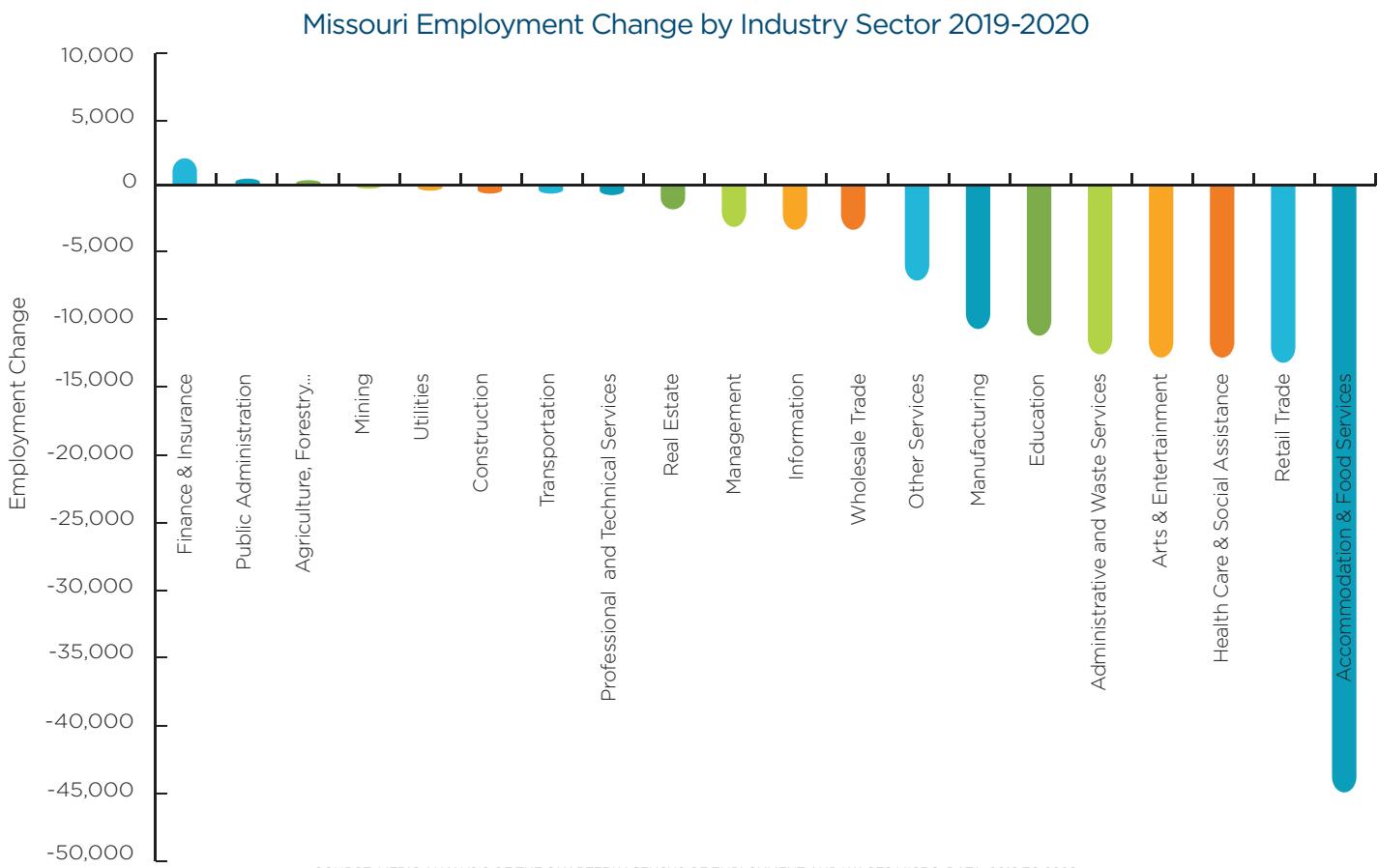
These changes are crucial; they help identify both the types of occupational job loss that is occurring and industries that are expanding or hiring.

The change in employment from 2019 to 2020 was heavily influenced by the economic situation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Overall the state of Missouri lost employment from 2019 to 2020, with some industry sectors being much more negatively affected by the pandemic than others. There were large employment gains in the second half of 2020, but not enough to make up for the losses in the spring. As the economic recovery continues into 2021, there might be

significant employment gains when comparing 2020 to 2021 in terms of employment changes by industry.

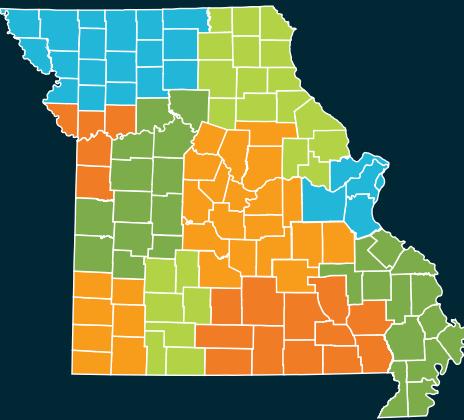
Seventeen out of 20 industry sectors lost jobs between 2019 and 2020. The pandemic may have accelerated long-term downward trends in some industries, such as *Retail Trade* and *Administrative and Waste Services*. The pandemic negatively impacted some industries especially hard. The *Accommodation and Food Services* sector experienced the largest employment drop, with 44,678 jobs lost. The largest percentage loss was in the *Arts, Entertainment, and Recreation* sector, which lost 23 percent of its employment.

Three industries ended the year with a positive growth. *Finance and Insurance* added the most jobs, (1,411 jobs). *Public Administration* and *Agriculture, Forestry, Fishing, and Hunting* sectors also saw small increases with 224 and 123 jobs added, respectively.



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.



2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

REGIONAL

ANALYSIS

Missouri's economy is diverse and varies by geography, natural resources, and population. To better understand the state's economy, the following section analyzes the various regional economies. The state is divided into 10 regions. These regions were developed using the Workforce Development Areas created by the Workforce Investment Act of 1998 and continued with the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014. For a list of the economic regions used in this analysis and the counties that make up those regions, see the Appendix.

The Missouri Regional Economic Profiles graph provides information on the total employment (size of the bubble), employment growth (horizontal axis), and average annual wage (vertical axis) within each region. All Missouri regions experienced negative growth in employment from 2016 to 2020. This negative growth is partly due to the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in 2020. For some regions, this negative growth is part of an ongoing negative trend.

The Ozark and Northeast regions experienced the least negative growth, at -0.4 and -0.5 percent, respectively. The Central region had the next lowest negative growth at -0.7 percent. Statewide, the employment growth averaged -0.6 percent from 2016 to 2020.

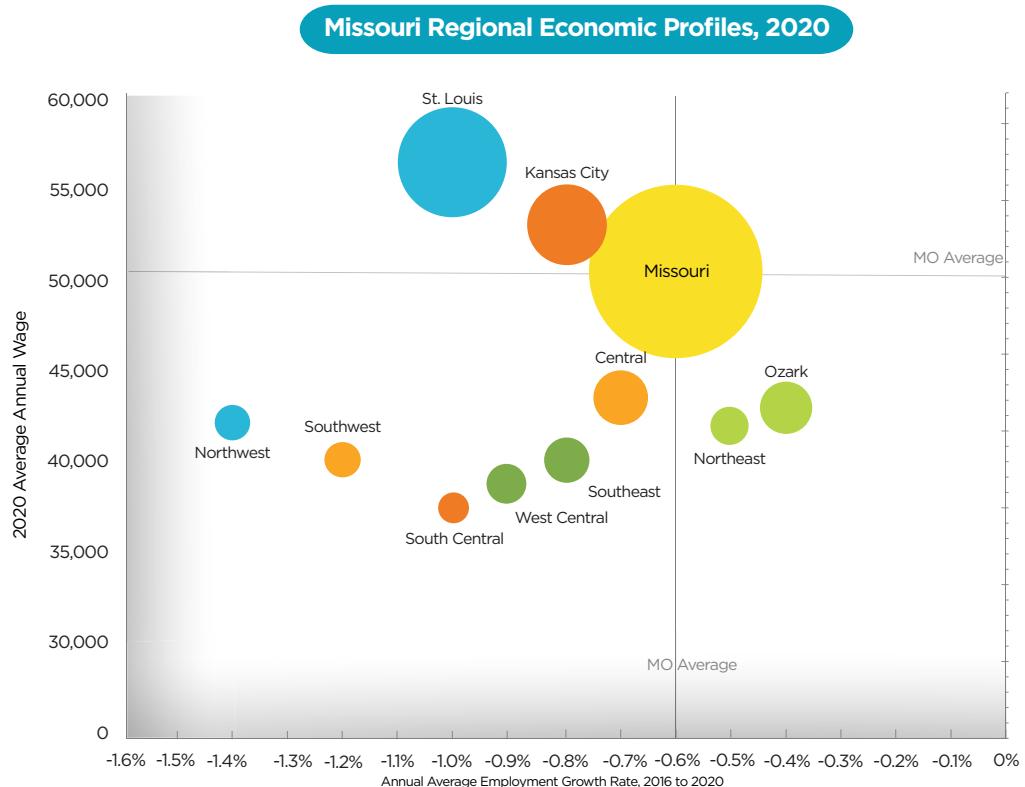
The statewide average wage in 2020 was \$50,140. St. Louis and Kansas City regions had wages higher than the state average, with average wages of \$55,704 and \$53,876, respectively. The Central and Ozark regions had the next highest wages, at \$44,873 and \$43,792, respectively.

The St. Louis region is the largest, in terms of employment, with over one million employees in 2020. The Kansas City and Central regions had the next highest employment with nearly 580,000 and over 306,400 employees, respectively.

Missouri Regional Economic Profiles 2020

Missouri	3,052,700
Central	306,446
Kansas City	579,356
Northeast	121,948
Northwest	119,639
Ozark	257,091
South Central	76,673
Southeast	155,477
Southwest	127,807
St. Louis	1,003,072
West Central	119,658

SOURCE: LOCAL AREA UNEMPLOYMENT STATISTICS (LAUS) AND OCCUPATIONAL EMPLOYMENT AND WAGE STATISTICS (OEWS)



2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

CENTRAL

REGION



The Central Region is comprised of 19 counties in the center of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Columbia, Mexico, Rolla, Camdenton, Lebanon, and the state capital, Jefferson City.

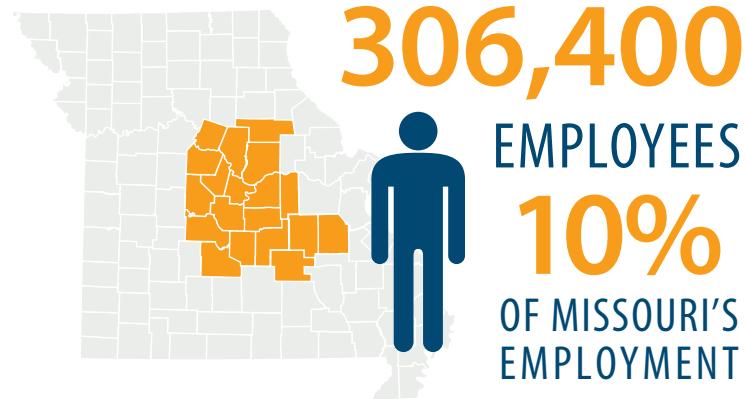
The Central Region workforce has more than 306,400 employees, making up 10 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male, which matches the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 5.2 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Central Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 11 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 3 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Central Region, 6 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Central Region has a slightly higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and nation. For the Central Region, 13 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



Workforce Demographics

	Central MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	306,446	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	5.2%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	11%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	3%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	24%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	6%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	35%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Central Region are slightly behind those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Thirty-five percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment

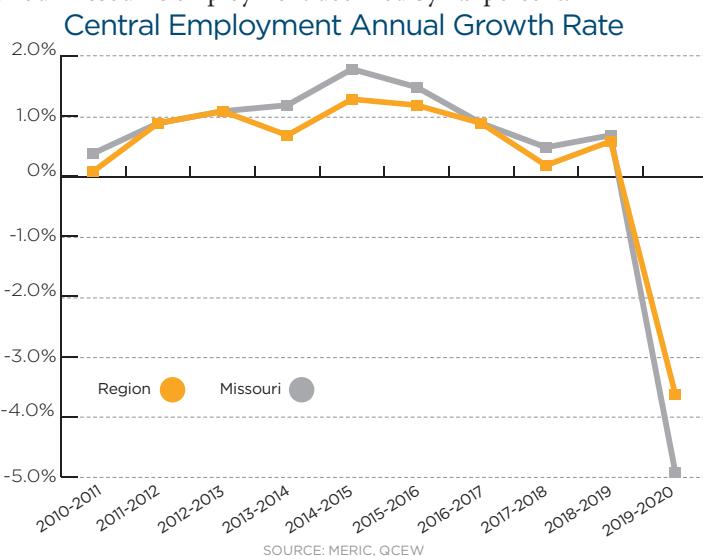


SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

CENTRAL REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Central Region averaged more than 272,200 jobs in 2020. The region lost 3.6 percent of its employment from 2019 to 2020. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Central Region averaged -0.5 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 2.1 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.



Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest industry sector in the Central Region, with over 43,000 jobs in 2020 and an annual growth rate of 0.9 percent since 2016. The *Retail Trade* industry continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region, even though the industry has lost over 2,400 jobs since 2016.

The *Finance and Insurance* industry added the most jobs, with a gain of over 2,000 jobs since 2016. *Educational Services* is the third largest industry, even though it is has been losing employment, with a decrease of over 2,000 jobs since 2016. *Manufacturing* is the fourth largest industry and has been growing at an annual rate of 1 percent from 2016 to 2020.

Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	41,777	43,329	1,552	0.9%	\$46,308
Retail Trade	34,230	31,778	-2,452	-1.8%	\$29,316
Educational Services	30,690	28,651	-2,039	-1.7%	\$45,768
Manufacturing	25,815	26,880	1,065	1.0%	\$47,076
Public Administration	26,679	25,643	-1,036	-1.0%	\$41,028
Accommodation & Food Services	26,572	24,726	-1,846	-1.8%	\$19,176
Construction	12,701	13,430	729	1.4%	\$48,996
Finance & Insurance	9,097	11,173	2,076	5.3%	\$71,064
Administrative Support & Waste	10,894	10,243	-651	-1.5%	\$33,444
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	9,698	8,738	-960	-2.6%	\$58,992
Wholesale Trade	7,749	7,821	72	0.2%	\$60,204
Transportation & Warehousing	6,852	7,592	740	2.6%	\$38,340

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Central Region has higher concentrations in *Administration of Human Resource Programs*, *Gasoline Stations*, *National Security and International Affairs*, and *Administration of Economic Programs*, just to name a few.



HIGHEST 2020
LQ 3.2
ADMINISTRATION OF
HUMAN RESOURCE
PROGRAMS

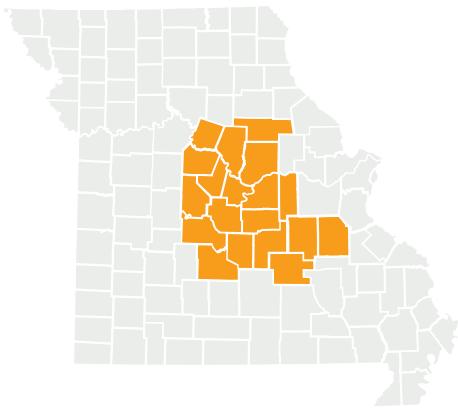
2020 Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Administration of Human Resource Programs	3,722	3.2
Gasoline Stations	3,702	2.8
National Security & International Affairs	2,440	2.8
Administration of Economic Programs	2,585	2.7
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	5,792	2.1
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	7,893	2.1
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,100	2.0
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	4,910	1.8
General Merchandise Stores	7,407	1.7
Sporting Goods, Hobby & Other Stores	1,172	1.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8,152	1.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	955	1.7
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	3,246	1.7
Animal Production & Aquaculture	622	1.6
Accommodation	3,395	1.6

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest industry growth in the Central Region will be in *Food Services and Drinking Places, Hospitals, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Social Assistance, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Administrative and Support Services, and Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*.



Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment 2018 Estimated	Employment 2028 Projected	Change 2018-2028 Numeric	Change 2018-2028 Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	24,586	29,022	4,436	18.0%
Hospitals	15,942	18,322	2,380	14.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	10,571	12,169	1,598	15.1%
Social Assistance	7,412	8,840	1,428	19.3%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	7,961	9,285	1,324	16.6%
Administrative & Support Services	9,307	10,432	1,125	12.1%
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	8,348	9,391	1,043	12.5%
Nonstore Retailers	2,329	3,320	991	42.6%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, orgs.	7,315	8,290	975	13.3%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	4,140	4,730	590	14.3%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Cashiers, Combined Food Preparation and Service Workers, and Waiters and Waitresses* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Office and Administrative Support Workers, and Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Cooks, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Loan Interviewers and Clerks, Cooks, and Respiratory Therapists* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Software Developers, Systems Software, and Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

CENTRAL REGION

Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Cashiers	8,904	8,822	-82	791	881	1,664	\$19,795 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	7,201	8,872	1,671	641	790	1,598	\$19,466 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	5,803	6,488	685	426	753	1,247	\$19,014
Retail Salespersons	8,704	8,409	-295	492	758	1,220	\$23,079 ★
Personal Care Aides	4,969	6,631	1,662	429	380	975	\$22,631 ★
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	8,708	7,992	-716	428	507	863	\$30,213 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	3,682	4,735	1,053	223	372	700	\$22,716
Nursing Assistants	4,269	4,782	513	243	264	558	\$23,924 ★
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	3,550	3,836	286	130	228	387	\$32,130 ★
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,189	3,341	152	134	237	386	\$36,736 ★
LATER							
Registered Nurses	6,865	7,905	1,040	205	189	498	\$61,756 ★
General and Operations Managers	4,696	5,158	462	103	324	473	\$66,241 ★
Accountants and Auditors	2,331	2,498	167	68	157	242	\$60,640 ★
Secondary School Teachers	2,963	2,987	24	83	126	211	\$44,498
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	1,721	1,827	106	52	121	184	\$35,746

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

KANSAS CITY

REGION



The Kansas City Region is comprised of five counties in the west central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Kansas City and Independence.

The Kansas City Region workforce has almost 580,000 employees, making up 19 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 50 percent of the workforce was female and 50 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 6.6 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Kansas City Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 23 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 20 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 7 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Kansas City Region, 9 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Kansas City Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state. For the region, 11 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



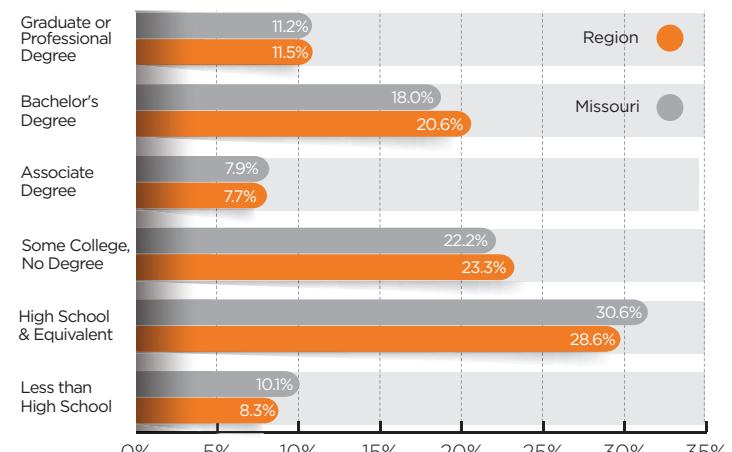
Workforce Demographics

	K.C. Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	579,356	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.6%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	50%	51%	50%
Male	50%	49%	50%
Non-White	20%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	7%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	23%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	11%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	11%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	9%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	40%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Kansas City Region are slightly higher than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

KANSAS CITY REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Kansas City Region averaged almost 530,000 jobs in 2020. The region lost 29,274 jobs from 2019 to 2020, declining 5.2 percent. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Kansas City Region averaged -0.5 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 2 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Kansas City Employment Annual Growth Rate



The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry continues to have the highest employment in the Kansas City region, with over 82,800 jobs in 2020. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry, even though it lost over 1,100 jobs from 2016 to 2020, a decrease of 0.4 percent annually for the region.

Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services grew by 1.8 percent annually, adding over 3,700 jobs from 2016 to 2020. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 6,200 jobs, for an annual decline of 3 percent from 2016 to 2020. *Accommodation and Food Services* was gaining employment from 2016 to 2019, but lost employment from 2019 to 2020 and was seriously affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.

Kansas City Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages	2020 Employment	2020 Location Quotient
	2016	2020					
Health Care & Social Assistance	78,997	82,884	3,887	1.2%	\$54,096	11,105	1.9
Retail Trade	63,578	62,455	-1,123	-0.4%	\$31,704	2,316	1.8
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	49,326	53,063	3,737	1.8%	\$90,156	2,189	1.7
Accommodation & Food Services	54,101	47,825	-6,276	-3.0%	\$22,128	556	1.6
Manufacturing	44,092	44,609	517	0.3%	\$65,544	3,418	1.6
Educational Services	37,292	37,055	-237	-0.2%	\$43,176	1,865	1.5
Administrative Support & Waste	34,120	32,089	-2,031	-1.5%	\$37,092	13,224	1.5
Construction	27,552	30,014	2,462	2.2%	\$67,584	49,187	1.4
Finance and Insurance	29,719	28,717	-1,002	-0.9%	\$89,748	1,929	1.4
Wholesale Trade	23,892	26,070	2,178	2.2%	\$75,552	9,509	1.4
Transportation & Warehousing	22,925	23,828	903	1.0%	\$47,784	3,719	1.4
Other Services (ex. Publ. Adm.)	15,985	15,645	-340	-0.5%	\$41,040	4,891	1.3

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Kansas City Region has higher concentrations in *Transportation Equipment Manufacturing, Data Processing and Hosting and Related Services, and Paper Manufacturing*.



HIGHEST 2020 LQ 1.9 TRANSPORTATION EQUIPMENT MANUFACTURING

2020 Kansas City Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	11,105	1.9
Data Processing, Hosting, & Related Services	2,316	1.8
Paper Manufacturing	2,189	1.7
Admin of Housing & Urban Planning	556	1.6
Postal Service	3,418	1.6
Performing Arts, Spectator Sports...	1,865	1.5
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	13,224	1.5
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Servs.	49,187	1.4
Printing & Related Support Activities	1,929	1.4
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	9,509	1.4
Support Activities for Transportation	3,719	1.4
Computer & Electronic Product Manufacturing	4,891	1.3
Truck Transportation	6,775	1.3
Gasoline Stations	4,143	1.3
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	2,746	1.2

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

KANSAS CITY REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Kansas City Region will continue to be *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Social Assistance, Hospitals, Specialty Trade Contractors, and Food and Beverage Stores.*



Kansas City Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	50,577	59,666	9,089	18.0%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	23,448	28,496	5,048	21.5%
Social Assistance	16,233	20,431	4,198	25.9%
Hospitals	30,818	33,264	2,446	7.9%
Specialty Trade Contractors	17,918	19,356	1,438	8.0%
Food & Beverage Stores	11,930	12,947	1,017	8.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	12,862	13,442	580	4.5%
Health & Personal Care Stores	3,840	4,232	392	10.2%
Gasoline Stations	4,237	4,597	360	8.5%
Federal Government, Excluding Post Office	15,190	15,534	344	2.3%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Cashiers, and Waiters and Waitresses* which lead the way in total openings. Health care related positions, including *Personal Care Aides* and *Home Health Aides* and are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Assemblers and Fabricators, and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Phlebotomists, Occupational Therapists Assistants, and Physical Therapists Assistants* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *General and Operations Managers* and *Registered Nurses* will have the most openings. *Information Security Analysts, Statisticians, and Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Kansas City Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2019-2020 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

KANSAS CITY REGION

Kansas City Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	14,274	16,687	2,413	1,234	1,522	2,997	\$19,988 ★
Cashiers	15,272	15,378	106	1,368	1,523	2,902	\$22,030
Waiters and Waitresses	10,966	11,597	631	783	1,382	2,228	\$19,115 ★
Retail Salespersons	14,794	14,254	-540	835	1,287	2,068	\$23,255 ★
Personal Care Aides	9,282	12,703	3,421	812	720	1,874	\$22,429
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	13,447	12,169	-1,278	656	777	1,305	\$36,905 ★
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	10,233	8,965	-1,268	393	725	991	\$37,803
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	8,104	8,400	296	340	598	968	\$44,484 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	4,902	5,930	1,028	288	479	870	\$28,132
Nursing Assistants	6,701	7,316	615	377	409	848	\$26,348 ★
LATER							
General and Operations Managers	10,860	11,567	707	235	739	1,045	\$84,041 ★
Registered Nurses	14,576	16,463	1,887	431	398	1,018	\$66,614 ★
Software Developers, Applications	6,268	8,349	2,081	101	413	722	\$88,153 ★
Accountants and Auditors	6,782	7,289	507	198	457	706	\$62,185 ★
Secondary School Teachers	5,792	5,891	99	162	247	419	\$50,609

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



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2021 ECONOMIC REPORT NORTHEAST REGION



The Northeast Region is comprised of 16 counties in northeastern Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Kirksville, Hannibal, Moberly, and Warrenton.

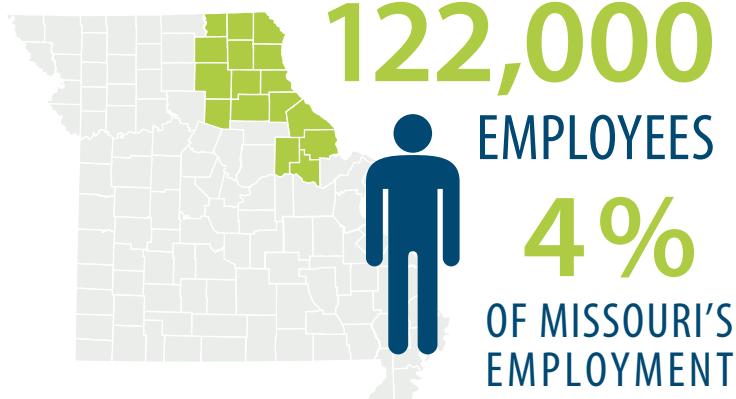
The Northeast Region workforce has almost 122,000 employees, making up 4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 5.4 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Northeast Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 26 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 21 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 7 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 2 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Northeast Region, 3 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Northeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the region, 13 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



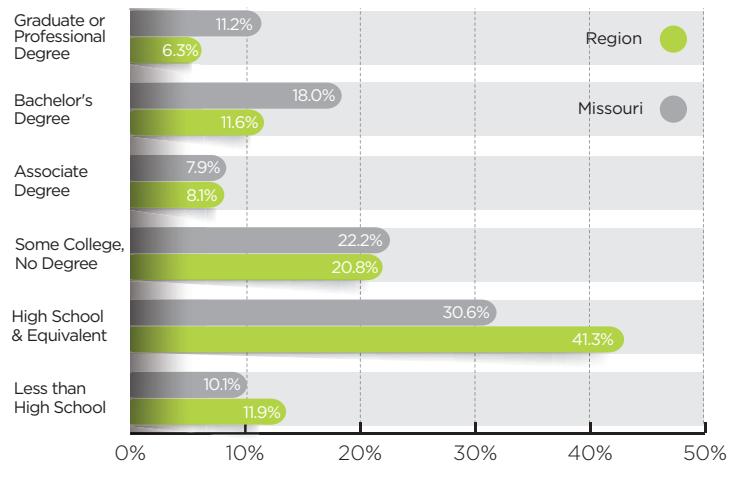
Workforce Demographics

	NE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	121,948	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	5.4%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	7%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	2%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	26%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	15%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	26%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Northeast Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-six percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment

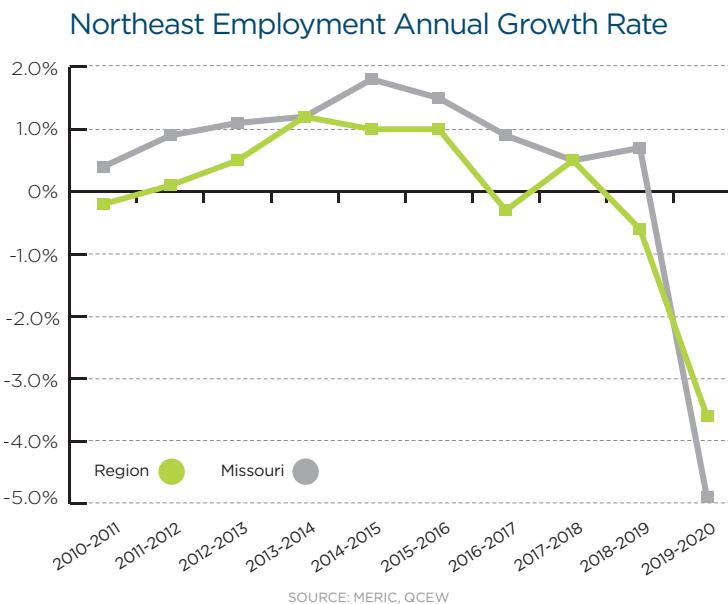


SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

NORTHEAST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Northeast Region averaged almost 76,400 jobs in 2020. The region lost 2,832 jobs from 2019 to 2020, at a -3.6 percent growth rate. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Northeast Region averaged -1.0 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 4.0 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.



Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest industry in the region, with an employment of almost 11,600 in 2020. The *Retail Trade* industry is the second largest industry with an employment of over 9,700 in 2020.

The top three employing industries in 2020 also had negative growth from 2016 to 2020. The *Construction* and *Finance and Insurance* industries gained employment from 2016 to 2020, with annual growth rates of 0.6 and 1.2 percent, respectively.

Northeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	12,173	11,595	-578	-1.2%	\$39,084
Retail Trade	10,225	9,713	-512	-1.3%	\$26,724
Accommodation & Food Services	6,114	5,702	-412	-1.7%	\$15,744
Construction	4,477	4,584	107	0.6%	\$48,348
Public Administration	4,492	4,285	-207	-1.2%	\$33,708
Wholesale Trade	3,237	2,943	-294	-2.4%	\$59,352
Finance & Insurance	2,343	2,460	117	1.2%	\$48,840
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	2,128	1,912	-216	-2.6%	\$29,712

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Northeast Region has higher concentrations in *Gasoline Stations*, *Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing*, *Animal Production and Aquaculture*, and *General Merchandise Stores*, just to name a few.



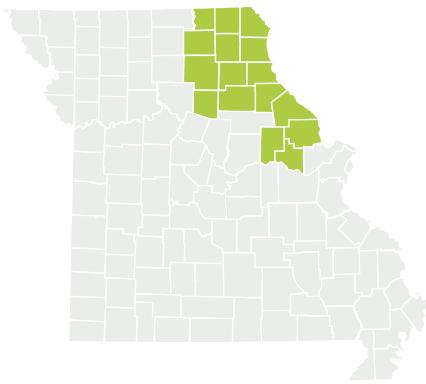
2020 Northeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations	1,791	5.7
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	653	4.8
Animal Production & Aquaculture	347	3.8
General Merchandise Stores	2,691	2.6
Postal Service	552	2.6
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,215	2.6
Truck Transportation	1,284	2.5
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	2,943	2.5
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	995	2.4
Crop Production	435	2.3
Machinery Manufacturing	804	2.2
Credit Intermediation & Related Activities	1,846	2.0
Repair and Maintenance	786	1.8
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,116	1.7
Transportation Equipment Manufacturing	829	1.5

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

NORTHEAST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Northeast Region will be the *Ambulatory Health Care Services, Nonstore Retailers, Merchant Wholesalers (Nondurable Goods), Crop Production, Food Services and Drinking Places, and General Merchandise Stores*.



Northeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Ambulatory Health Care Services	2,770	3,413	643	23.2%
Nonstore Retailers	941	1,476	535	56.8%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,441	1,790	349	24.2%
Crop Production	2,001	2,338	337	16.8%
Food Services & Drinking Places	6,056	6,381	325	5.4%
General Merchandise Stores	2,725	3,032	307	11.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,963	2,242	279	14.2%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,128	1,340	212	18.8%
Social Assistance	2,478	2,677	199	8.0%
Building Material & Garden Equip. & Supplies	1,129	1,302	173	15.3%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Cashiers, Retail Salespersons, and Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers* which lead the way in total openings. Other positions include *Personal Care Aides, Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment, and Customer Service Representatives* which are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Pharmacy Technicians, Respiratory Therapists, and Heating, Air Conditioning, and Refrigeration Mechanics* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *General and Operations Managers, Registered Nurses, and Secondary School Teachers* will have the most openings. *Software Developers, Applications, Nurse Practitioners, and Pharmacists* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Northeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

NORTHEAST REGION

Northeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Cashiers	2,566	2,662	96	233	260	503	\$19,361 ★
Retail Salespersons	2,330	2,475	145	138	213	365	\$22,662 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,530	1,693	163	128	158	302	\$19,030 ★
Personal Care Aides	1,545	1,791	246	123	109	257	\$21,753 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	1,046	1,068	22	73	130	205	\$21,007
NEXT							
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	2,179	2,350	171	93	164	274	\$41,110 ★
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,696	2,433	-263	131	156	261	\$31,234 ★
Nursing Assistants	1,525	1,472	-53	81	87	163	\$22,398
Cooks, Restaurant	837	978	141	48	80	142	\$21,727
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,075	1,103	28	38	82	123	\$36,332 ★
LATER							
General and Operations Managers	1,370	1,463	93	30	93	132	\$60,523 ★
Registered Nurses	1,481	1,605	124	43	40	95	\$55,953 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,169	1,166	-3	32	49	81	\$39,896
Accountants and Auditors	355	371	16	10	24	36	\$53,326 ★
Elementary School Teachers	456	455	-1	14	19	33	\$43,349

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



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2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

NORTHWEST

REGION



The Northwest Region is comprised of 18 counties in the northwest corner of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including St. Joseph, Chillicothe, Trenton, and Maryville.

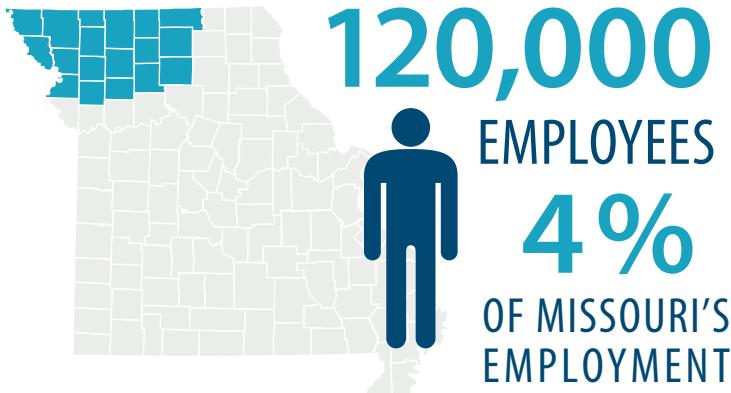
The Northwest Region workforce has almost 120,000 employees, making up 4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 52 percent of the workforce was female and 48 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 4.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Northwest Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 25 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 21 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 4 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, matching the overall state average of 4 percent for Missouri.

For the Northwest Region, 5 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. population at 23 percent.

The Northwest Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the region, 13 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



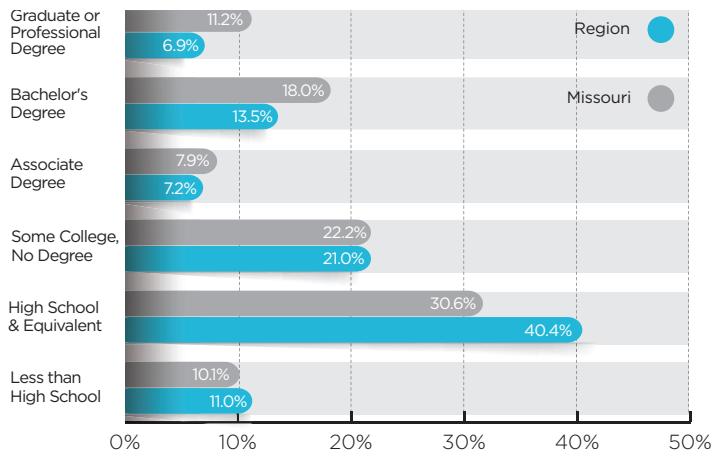
Workforce Demographics

	NW Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	119,639	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	4.7%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	52%	51%	50%
Male	48%	49%	50%
Non-White	9%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	4%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	25%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	13%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	15%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	28%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Northwest Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-eight percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment

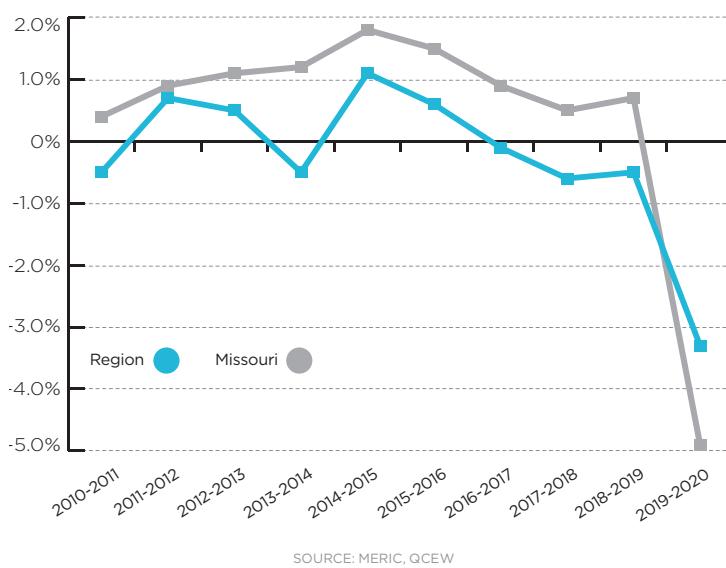


NORTHWEST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Northwest Region averaged over 90,800 jobs in 2020. The region lost 3,065 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.3 percent growth rate. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Northwest Region averaged -1.1 percent annual loss for an overall decrease of 4.4 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Northwest Employment Annual Growth Rate



Health Care and Social Assistance and *Retail Trade* are the largest industry sectors in the region, with an employment of 15,573 and 10,209, respectively, in 2020.

Wholesale Trade had positive growth from 2016 to 2020, with an annual growth rate of 0.2 percent.

Northwest Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment		Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages	Location Quotient
	2016	2020				
Health Care & Social Assistance	15,576	15,573	-3	0.0%	\$46,008	7.0
Retail Trade	10,563	10,209	-354	-0.8%	\$28,596	4.9
Public Administration	5,679	5,160	-519	-2.4%	\$32,580	4.0
Wholesale Trade	3,580	3,606	26	0.2%	\$58,908	3.9
Finance & Insurance	3,336	2,964	-372	-2.9%	\$57,312	2.3
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	2,181	2,069	-112	-1.3%	\$32,652	2.2

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Northeast Region has higher concentrations in several industry sectors, including *Food Manufacturing*, *Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing*, and *Gasoline Stations*.



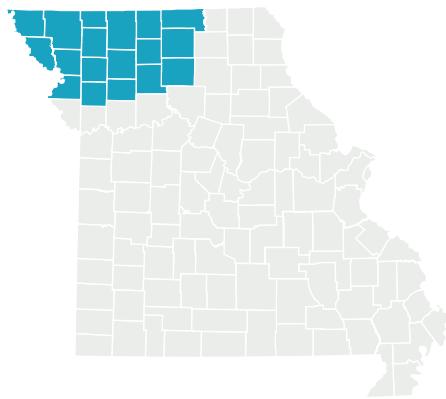
2020 Northwest Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Food Manufacturing	4,904	7.0
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,930	4.9
Gasoline Stations	1,622	4.0
Chemical Manufacturing	1,459	3.9
Postal Service	625	2.3
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,322	2.2
General Merchandise Stores	2,754	2.1
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,840	2.0
Justice, Public Order, & Safety Activities	1,431	1.7
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,346	1.6
Animal Production & Aquaculture	187	1.6
Crop Production	369	1.6
Heavy & Civil Engineering Construction	774	1.5
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	2,156	1.5
Repair & Maintenance	817	1.5

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

NORTHWEST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Northwest Region will be the *Ambulatory Health Care Services, Social Assistance, Machinery Manufacturing, Hospitals, and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*.



Northwest Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Ambulatory Health Care Services	3,300	3,765	465	14.1%
Social Assistance	3,159	3,621	462	14.6%
Machinery Manufacturing	1,639	1,981	342	20.8%
Hospitals	4,849	5,187	338	7.0%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	2,198	2,431	233	10.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	1,819	1,935	116	6.4%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	1,173	1,280	107	9.1%
Warehousing & Storage	480	580	100	20.9%
Nonstore Retailers	186	278	92	49.5%
Plastics & Rubber Products Manufacturing	322	401	79	24.5%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

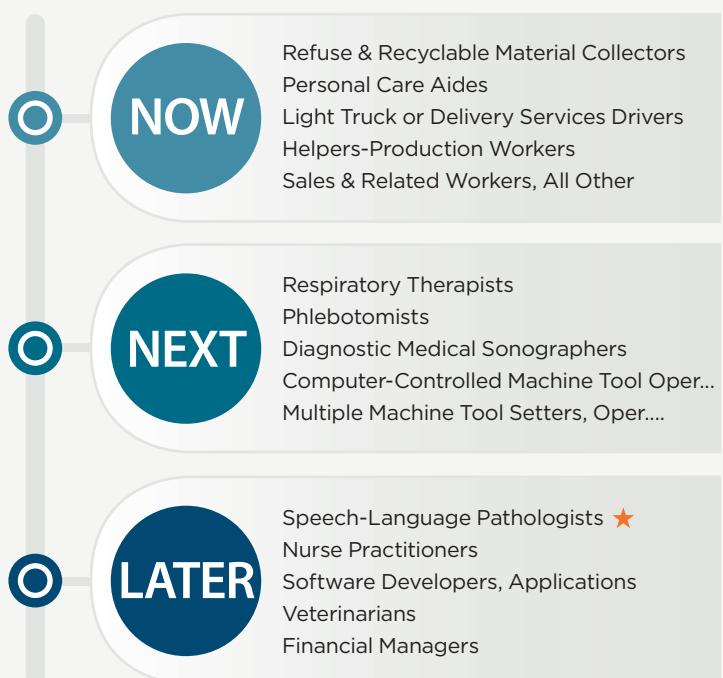
MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Retail Salespersons, Cashiers, and Personal Care Aides* which lead the way in total openings. *Refuse and Recyclable Material Collectors, Personal Care Aides, and Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Nursing Assistants, and Cooks* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists, Phlebotomists, and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Secondary School Teachers* will have the most openings. *Speech-Language Pathologists, Nurse Practitioners, and Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Northwest Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

NORTHWEST REGION

Northwest Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Retail Salespersons	4,049	3,872	-177	228	351	561	\$22,236 ★
Cashiers	2,887	2,822	-65	255	284	533	\$19,992 ★
Personal Care Aides	3,077	3,653	576	249	220	527	\$22,938
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,952	2,039	87	159	196	364	\$19,406 ★
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	1,661	1,740	79	77	159	244	\$26,956 ★
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,824	2,491	-333	136	161	264	\$29,175 ★
Nursing Assistants	1,559	1,476	-83	82	88	162	\$22,981 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,003	1,097	94	56	93	158	\$21,491
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,307	1,341	34	54	96	153	\$39,535 ★
Maintenance and Repair Workers, General	1,566	1,554	-12	55	96	150	\$35,574 ★
LATER							
Registered Nurses	2,191	2,379	188	63	59	141	\$59,358 ★
General and Operations Managers	1,368	1,406	38	29	91	124	\$68,391 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,706	1,633	-73	46	71	110	\$43,927
Elementary School Teachers	1,084	1,035	-49	33	45	73	\$38,956
Substance Abuse, Behavioral, & Mental Health	409	465	56	14	31	51	\$31,081

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

OZARK

REGION



The Ozark Region is comprised of seven counties in the southwest quadrant of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Springfield, Branson, Nixa, and Marshfield.

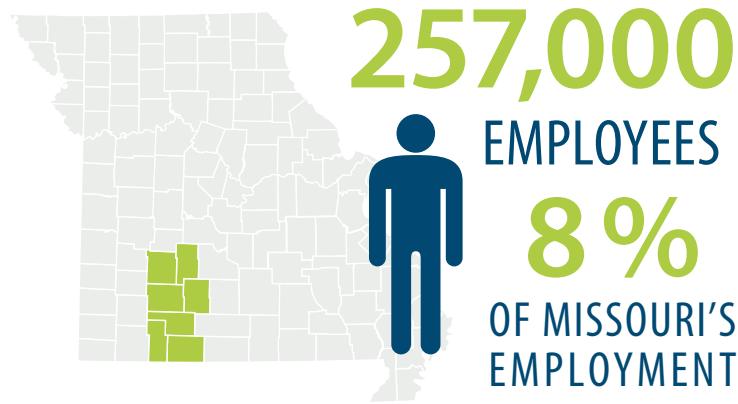
The Ozark Region workforce has more than 257,000 employees, making up 8 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male, which is the same percentage as Missouri. The regional average unemployment rate for 2020 was 6.2 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Ozark Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 23 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 8 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 4 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, matching the overall state average of 4 percent.

In the Ozark Region, 5 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Ozark Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and nation. For the Ozark Region, 14 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



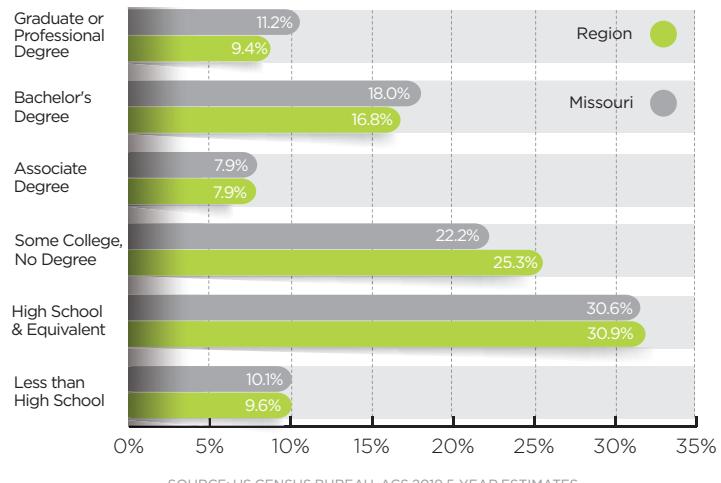
Workforce Demographics

	Ozark MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	257,091	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.2%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	8%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	4%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	23%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	14%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	34%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Ozark Region are slightly behind those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Thirty-four percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment

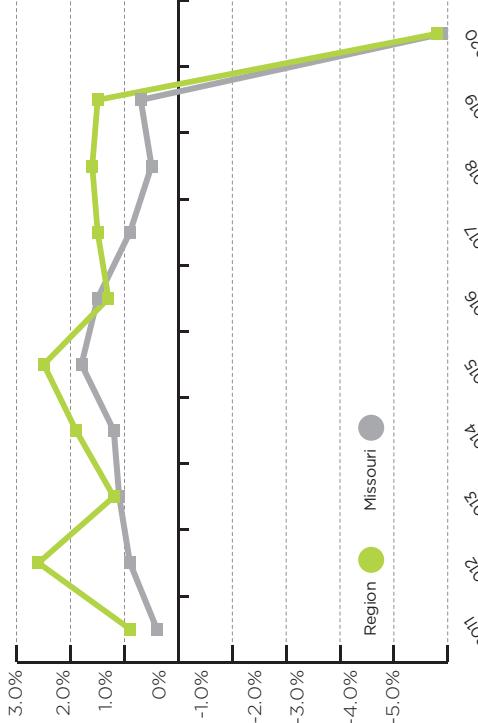


OZARK REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Ozark Region averaged nearly 231,000 jobs in 2020. The region lost 11,604 jobs from 2019 to 2020, for a -4.8 percent growth rate. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Ozark Region averaged -0.1 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 0.4 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Ozark Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: MERIC, QCEW

Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing industry in the Ozark region, showing consistent growth over the past five years. *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services* had large decreases in employment, losing 1,907 and 1,365 jobs, respectively, from 2016 to 2020.

The *Manufacturing* industry gained over 1,800 jobs at a 2.8 percent annual growth rate. The *Construction and Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* industries also had large increases in employment, 973 and 1,748 respectively, from 2016 to 2020.

Ozark Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	2016	2020	Net Change	CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Accommodation & Food Services	26,809	25,444	-1,365	-1.3%	\$21,252
Educational Services	20,128	19,791	-337	-0.4%	\$37,548
Manufacturing	15,438	17,258	1,820	2.8%	\$49,044
Administrative Support & Waste	16,476	13,200	-3,276	-5.4%	\$37,140
Wholesale Trade	11,336	12,309	973	2.1%	\$64,524
Construction	10,673	12,097	1,424	3.2%	\$46,344
Transportation & Warehousing	11,092	11,515	423	0.9%	\$49,656
Professional, Science & Tech. Servs.	9,381	11,129	1,748	4.4%	\$59,856
Finance & Insurance	8,576	8,585	9	0.0%	\$56,340
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	6,981	6,472	-509	-1.9%	\$34,632

SOURCE: LEHD-GWII, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Ozark Region has higher concentrations in *Scenic and Sightseeing Transportation, Truck Transportation, Accommodation, and Performing Arts, Spectator Sports and Related Industries*.



SCENIC AND SIGHTSEEING TRANSPORTATION

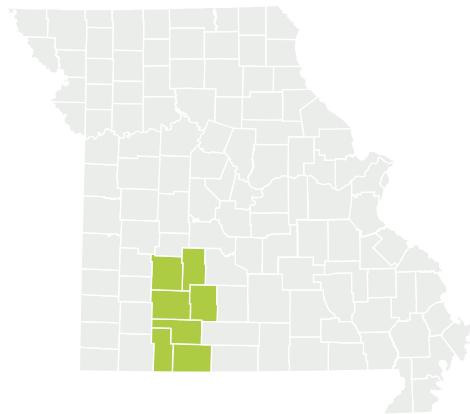
2020 Ozark Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Scenic & Sightseeing Transportation	125	4.2
Truck Transportation	7,571	3.4
Accommodation	5,051	2.3
Performing Arts & Spectator Sports	1,145	2.3
Sporting Goods, Hobby & Other Stores	1,471	2.1
Telecommunications	2,115	2.1
Gasoline Stations	2,391	1.7
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Institutions	515	1.7
General Merchandise Stores	7,513	1.7
Hospitals	16,039	1.7
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	3,182	1.6
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	7,105	1.5
Repair & Maintenance	2,821	1.5
Miscellaneous Store Retailers	1,596	1.4
Food Services & Drinking Places	20,424	1.4

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

OZARK REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Ozark Region will be *Hospitals, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Administrative and Support Services, Educational Services, Specialty Trade Contractors, and Management of Companies and Enterprises*.



Ozark Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Hospitals	18,063	24,068	6,005	33.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	11,141	14,684	3,543	31.8%
Administrative & Support Services	12,402	15,543	3,141	25.3%
Educational Services	19,375	21,544	2,169	11.2%
Specialty Trade Contractors	6,957	8,552	1,595	22.9%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	3,904	5,164	1,260	32.3%
Local Government, Excluding Ed. & Hospitals	8,633	9,347	714	8.3%
General Merchandise Stores	7,431	8,133	702	9.4%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	9,613	10,290	677	7.0%
Religious, Grantmaking, Civic, Professional, Orgs.	4,623	5,244	621	13.4%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Cashiers, and Retail Salespersons* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs, and Orderlies* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, and Diagnostic Medical Sonographers* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Elementary School Teachers* will have the most openings. *Physician Assistants, Nurse Practitioners, and Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Ozark Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

OZARK REGION

Ozark Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	7,530	9,336	1,806	672	829	1,682	\$19,336 ★
Cashiers	7,481	7,753	272	680	757	1,464	\$20,199
Retail Salespersons	8,752	9,183	431	515	794	1,352	\$23,245 ★
Personal Care Aides	4,770	7,396	2,626	450	398	1,111	\$21,669 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	4,958	5,522	564	364	642	1,062	\$18,964 ★
NEXT							
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	7,231	7,465	234	302	533	858	\$40,130 ★
Secretaries & Administrative Assistants	6,178	6,024	-154	313	370	668	\$30,148 ★
Nursing Assistants	3,854	5,002	1,148	238	258	611	\$24,832
Cooks, Restaurant	3,127	3,979	852	189	314	588	\$21,848
Supervisors of Food Prep and Serving Workers	1,929	2,250	321	91	228	351	\$28,220
LATER							
Registered Nurses	5,853	7,842	1,989	190	176	565	\$55,334 ★
General and Operations Managers	4,217	4,793	576	94	297	449	\$71,207 ★
Elementary School Teachers	2,652	2,933	281	87	119	234	\$46,561
Sub. Abuse, Behavioral, and Mental Health Counselors	1,360	1,847	487	52	112	213	\$25,983
Accountants & Auditors	1,618	1,831	213	49	112	182	\$54,833 ★

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

SOUTH CENTRAL

REGION



The South Central Region is comprised of 12 counties in the center of the southern portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including West Plains and Poplar Bluff.

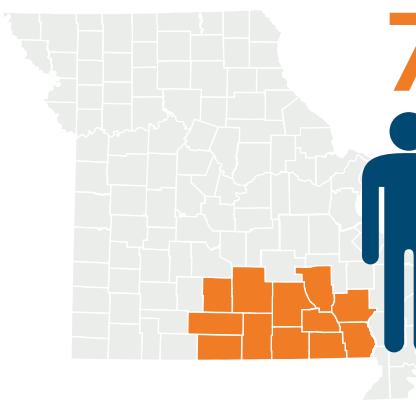
The South Central Region workforce has more than 76,600 employees, making up 3 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 56 percent of the workforce was female and 44 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 51 percent female and 49 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 6.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the South Central Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 25 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 6 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 2 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the South Central Region, 2 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The South Central Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the South Central Region, 23 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



76,600
EMPLOYEES
3%
OF MISSOURI'S
EMPLOYMENT

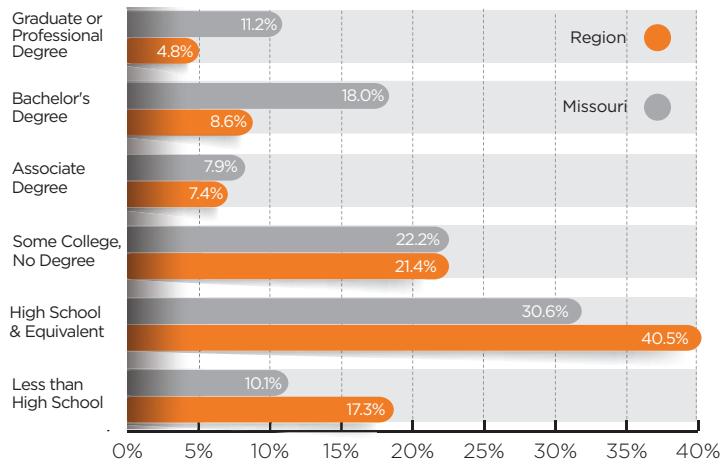
Workforce Demographics

	SC Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	76,673	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.7%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	56%	51%	50%
Male	44%	49%	50%
Non-White	6%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	2%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	25%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	23%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	22%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	2%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	21%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the South Central Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-one percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



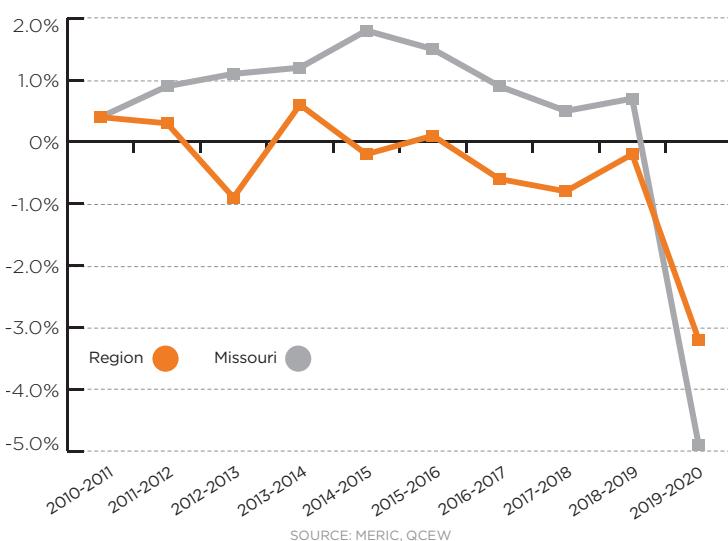
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The South Central Region averaged over 57,200 jobs in 2020. The region lost almost 1,900 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a 3.2 percent employment decrease. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the South Central Region averaged a -1.2 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 4.8 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

South Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



Health Care and Social Assistance continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region with over 12,200 jobs in 2020 and a 0.6 percent annual growth rate since 2016. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry in the area with over 7,700 jobs, even though it has lost 486 jobs since 2016.

The *Retail Trade* and *Educational Services* industries have also been losing employment with a decline of 307 and 277 jobs, respectively, since 2016. Most of the industry sectors in the South Central Region have declined since 2016.

South Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	11,956	12,231	275	0.6%	\$32,460
Manufacturing	8,223	7,737	-486	-1.5%	\$37,680
Retail Trade	7,353	7,046	-307	-1.1%	\$26,340
Educational Services	5,961	5,684	-277	-1.2%	\$31,224
Accommodation & Food Services	4,753	4,566	-187	-1.0%	\$16,044
Public Administration	2,965	2,876	-89	-0.8%	\$32,784
Wholesale Trade	2,025	1,821	-204	-2.6%	\$48,276
Finance and Insurance	1,698	1,709	11	0.2%	\$45,492
Transportation & Warehousing	1,513	1,376	-137	-2.3%	\$38,388

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2019-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The South Central Region has higher concentrations in *Wood Product Manufacturing*, *Forestry and Logging*, *Gas Stations*, *Machinery Manufacturing*, *Nursing and Residential Care Facilities*, and *General Merchandise Stores*.



WOOD PRODUCT MANUFACTURING

2020 South Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Wood Product Manufacturing	1,615	14.7
Forestry & Logging	79	5.1
Gasoline Stations	1,234	4.8
Machinery Manufacturing	1,027	3.5
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	2,717	2.9
General Merchandise Stores	2,013	2.4
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	914	2.4
Social Assistance	2,749	2.4
Administration of Human Resource Programs	492	2.2
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,122	2.1
Postal Service	351	2.1
Truck Transportation	803	2.0
Admin. of Environmental Quality Programs	166	1.8
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	88	1.8
Credit Intermediation and Related Activities	1,178	1.6

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the South Central Region will be *Social Assistance, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Food Services and Drinking Places, and Administrative and Support Services*.



South Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Social Assistance	3,737	4,703	966	25.9%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	3,019	3,896	877	29.0%
Food Services & Drinking Places	4,458	5,180	722	16.2%
Administrative & Support Services	1,626	2,113	487	30.0%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	1,310	1,466	156	11.9%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	854	978	124	14.5%
Management of Companies & Enterprises	551	668	117	21.2%
Building Material & Garden Equip. & Supplies	941	1,049	108	11.4%
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	203	299	96	47.5%
Gasoline Stations	1,165	1,247	82	7.1%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Cashiers, Personal Care Aides, and Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Taxi Drivers and Chauffeurs, and Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Nursing Assistants, and Cooks* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Physical Therapist Assistants, Cooks, Restaurant, and Medical Secretaries* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Elementary School Teachers* will have the most openings. *Securities, Commodities, and Financial Services Sales Agents, Nurse Practitioners, and Software Developers, Applications* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

South Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

SOUTH CENTRAL REGION

South Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Cashiers	2,805	2,780	-25	249	278	525	\$19,214 ★
Personal Care Aides	2,640	3,449	809	225	199	505	\$21,300 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	1,694	2,043	349	149	184	368	\$18,726 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	960	1,038	78	69	122	199	\$18,482
Retail Salespersons	1,358	1,361	3	78	120	198	\$23,515 ★
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	1,754	1,566	-188	85	101	167	\$27,673
Nursing Assistants	1,078	1,145	67	60	65	132	\$22,031 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	725	898	173	43	72	132	\$19,898
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	975	990	15	40	71	113	\$35,802 ★
Assemblers and Fabricators, All Other	841	807	-34	34	62	93	\$25,678
LATER							
Registered Nurses	1,573	1,781	208	46	43	110	\$56,217 ★
General and Operations Managers	865	913	48	19	59	83	\$60,171 ★
Elementary School Teachers	1,056	1,028	-28	32	44	73	\$37,858
Substitute Teachers	530	517	-13	30	29	58	\$22,590
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	528	544	16	16	36	54	\$34,523

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

SOUTHEAST

REGION



The Southeast Region is comprised of 13 counties in the southeast portion of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Cape Girardeau, Sikeston, Caruthersville, and Park Hills.

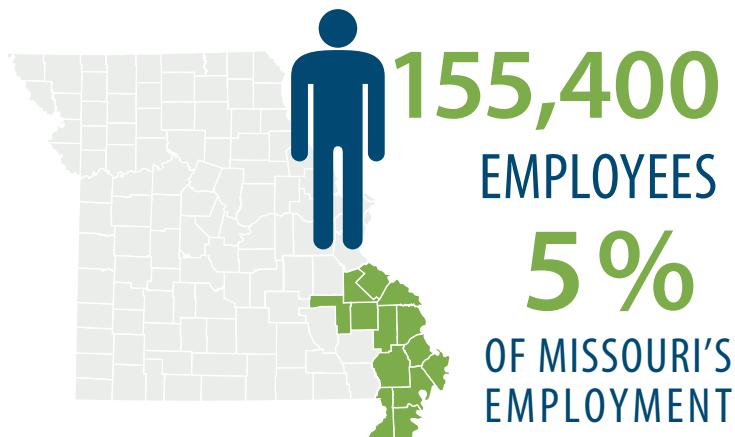
The Southeast Region workforce has more than 155,400 employees, making up 5 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 53 percent of the workforce was female and 47 percent was male, compared to Missouri's overall 51 percent female and 49 percent male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 6 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southeast Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 25 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 10 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 2 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Southeast Region, 3 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Southeast Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southeast Region, 18 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



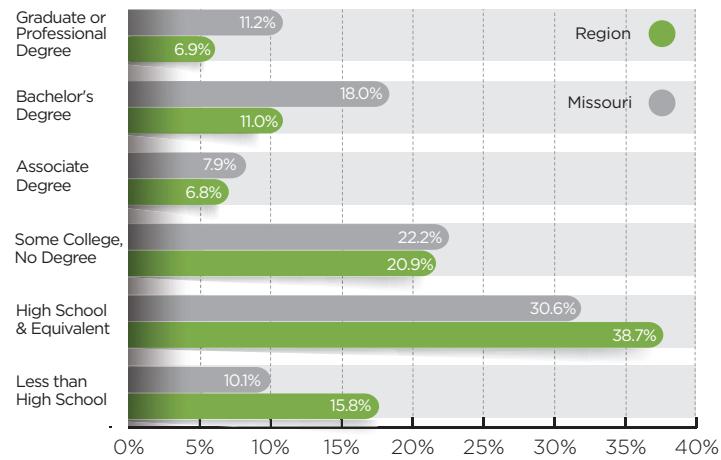
Workforce Demographics

	SE Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	155,477	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.0%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	53%	51%	50%
Male	47%	49%	50%
Non-White	10%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	2%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	25%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	18%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	18%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	3%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	25%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Southeast Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-five percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

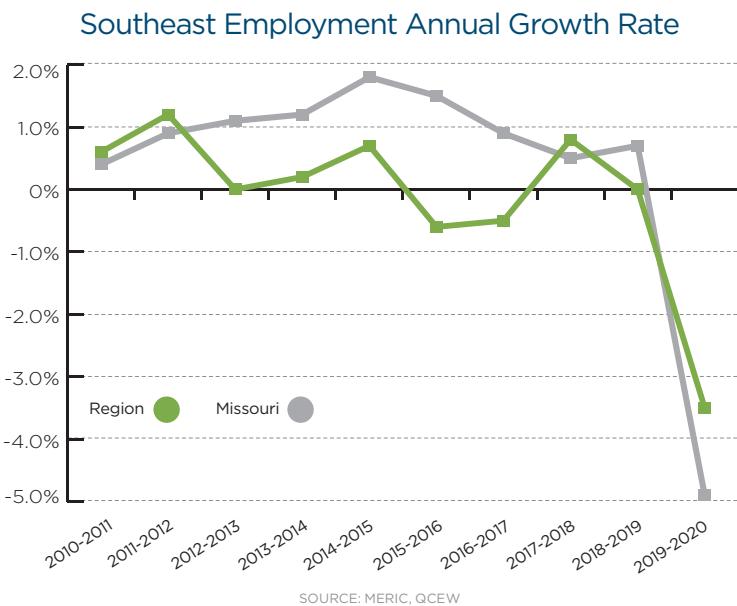
Educational Attainment



SOUTHEAST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southeast Region averaged over 134,700 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 4,900 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.5 percent employment growth. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Southeast Region averaged a decrease of 0.8 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 3.2 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment lost 2.9 percent.



Health Care and Social Assistance continues to be the largest employing industry in the region, even though it lost employment in 2020 when compared to 2016. *Manufacturing* is the second largest industry, followed by *Retail Trade* and *Accommodation and Food Services*.

Most of the industry sectors in the Southeast Region lost employment between 2016 and 2020, except *Finance and Insurance*; *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services*; and *Real Estate and Rental and Leasing*.

Southeast Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	30,752	30,577	-175	-0.1%	\$37,320
Manufacturing	18,244	18,171	-73	-0.1%	\$50,508
Retail Trade	16,595	15,300	-1,295	-2.0%	\$28,824
Accommodation & Food Services	10,292	9,798	-494	-1.2%	\$17,148
Public Administration	6,548	6,259	-289	-1.1%	\$32,412
Construction	6,288	6,238	-50	-0.2%	\$49,176
Wholesale Trade	5,986	5,685	-301	-1.3%	\$57,876
Transportation & Warehousing	5,381	4,990	-391	-1.9%	\$45,420
Finance and Insurance	3,743	4,099	356	2.3%	\$53,256
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	2,776	3,354	578	4.8%	\$56,496
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	3,115	2,997	-118	-1.0%	\$30,780
Real Estate and Rental & Leasing	1,282	1,292	10	0.2%	n/a

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Southeast Region has higher concentrations in *Mining, Gas Stations, Crop Production, Wood Product Manufacturing, Truck Transportation, and Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing*.



**HIGHEST 2020
LQ 7.6**

**MINING
(EXCEPT OIL AND GAS)**

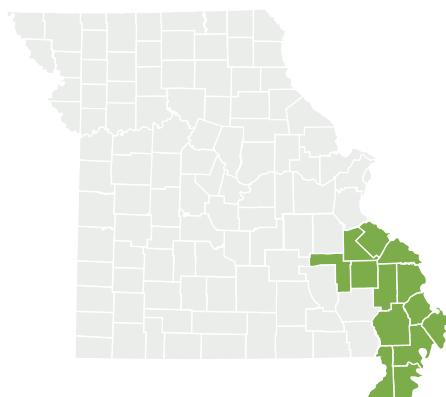
2020 Southeast Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Mining (except Oil and Gas)	820	7.6
Gasoline Stations	2,481	4.4
Crop Production	1,432	4.3
Wood Product Manufacturing	866	3.6
Truck Transportation	2,928	3.2
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	743	3.0
Social Assistance	6,829	2.7
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	5,498	2.6
Support Activities for Agriculture & Forestry	562	2.4
Health & Personal Care Stores	1,342	2.2
General Merchandise Stores	3,671	2.0
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,334	2.0
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,646	2.0
Telecommunications	761	1.8
Postal Service	637	1.7

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

SOUTHEAST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Southeast Region will be *Social Assistance, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Food Services and Drinking Places, Hospitals, and Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods)*.



Southeast Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment 2018 Estimated	Employment 2028 Projected	Change 2018-2028 Numeric	Change 2018-2028 Percent
Social Assistance	9,513	11,720	2,207	23.2%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	6,989	8,672	1,683	24.1%
Food Services & Drinking Places	10,434	11,335	901	8.6%
Hospitals	8,504	9,041	537	6.3%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	3,006	3,379	373	12.4%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	3,028	3,287	259	8.6%
Truck Transportation	2,798	3,040	242	8.6%
Primary Metal Manufacturing	952	1,179	227	23.8%
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	1,618	1,819	201	12.4%
Construction of Buildings	1,585	1,754	169	10.7%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Personal Care Aides, Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, and Cashiers* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Physical Therapist Aides, and Home Health Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Physical Therapist Assistants, Respiratory Therapists, and Veterinary Technologists and Technicians* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Physician Assistants, Speech-Language Pathologists, and Nurse Practitioners* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Southeast Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

SOUTHEAST REGION

Southeast Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Personal Care Aides	7,239	9,649	2,410	624	553	1,418	\$21,311 ★
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	4,926	5,546	620	418	515	995	\$18,827 ★
Cashiers	4,580	4,445	-135	403	448	837	\$19,195 ★
Retail Salespersons	4,435	4,243	-192	249	384	614	\$21,937 ★
Farmworkers and Laborers	2,571	2,546	-25	102	316	416	\$34,386
NEXT							
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	3,739	3,963	224	158	279	459	\$40,188 ★
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	4,306	3,859	-447	209	248	412	\$28,829 ★
Nursing Assistants	2,691	2,840	149	149	161	325	\$22,432 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,264	1,481	217	73	121	216	\$21,218
Supervisors of Food Prep and Serving Workers	1,149	1,226	77	52	130	190	\$25,852
LATER							
Registered Nurses	3,568	3,958	390	104	96	239	\$56,132 ★
General and Operations Managers	2,207	2,272	65	47	148	201	\$65,177 ★
Accountants and Auditors	1,074	1,150	76	31	72	111	\$48,307 ★
Secondary School Teachers	1,643	1,586	-57	45	68	107	\$42,712
Elementary School Teachers	1,319	1,269	-50	40	55	90	\$44,247

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

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2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

SOUTHWEST

REGION



The Southwest Region is comprised of seven counties in the southwest corner of Missouri. This region is home to several cities including Joplin, Neosho, and Monett.

The Southwest Region workforce has more than 127,800 employees, making up 4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 49 percent of the workforce was female and 51 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate in 2020 was 5.7 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the Southwest Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 20 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 9 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 8 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the Southwest Region, 8 percent of the population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The Southwest Region has a slightly higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the Southwest Region, 14 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



127,800
EMPLOYEES
4%
OF MISSOURI'S
EMPLOYMENT

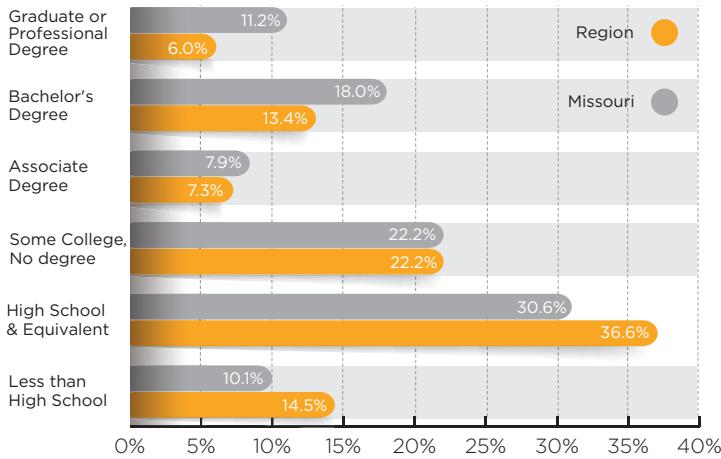
Workforce Demographics

	SW Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	127,807	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	5.7%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	49%	51%	50%
Male	51%	49%	50%
Non-White	9%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	8%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	24%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	14%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	8%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	27%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the Southwest Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-seven percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



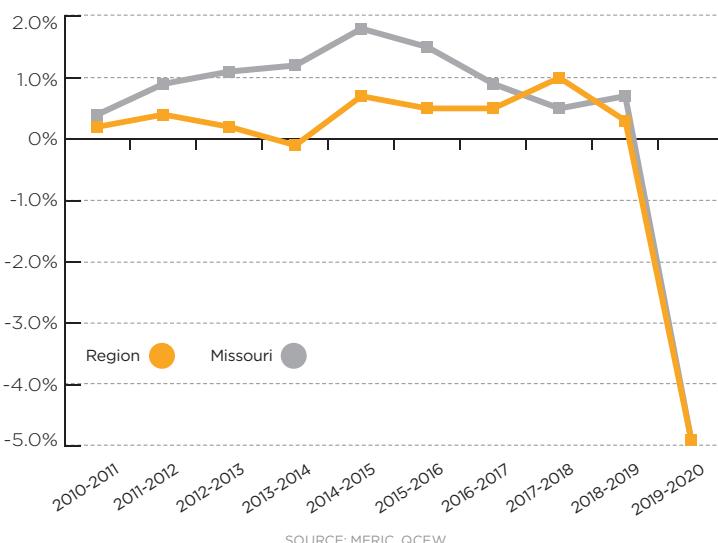
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019

SOUTHWEST REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The Southwest Region averaged over 108,400 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 5,500 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -4.9 percent employment growth. Missouri employment also decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the Southwest Region averaged -0.8 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 3.1 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

Southwest Employment Annual Growth Rate



SOURCE: MERIC, QCEW

Manufacturing is the largest employing industry in the region at almost 23,700 jobs and growing 1.3 percent annually from 2016 to 2020. *Health Care and Social Assistance* is the second largest industry in the region at over 16,300 jobs. *Retail Trade* lost 578 jobs from 2016 to 2020, with an annualized growth rate of -1.1 percent.

Educational Services maintained its employment at around 10,060 from 2016 and 2020. The *Transportation and Warehousing* and *Administrative and Support and Waste Management* industries had notable job losses of 1,020 and 1,858, respectively.

Southwest Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Manufacturing	22,490	23,695	1,205	1.3%	\$49,104
Health Care & Social Assistance	16,126	16,330	204	0.3%	\$46,068
Retail Trade	13,794	13,216	-578	-1.1%	\$29,664
Educational Services	10,059	10,064	5	0.0%	\$34,092
Accommodation & Food Services	8,458	8,204	-254	-0.8%	\$16,764
Transportation & Warehousing	6,859	5,839	-1,020	-3.9%	\$48,432
Administrative Support & Waste	6,557	4,699	-1,858	-8.0%	\$32,136
Construction	4,422	4,530	108	0.6%	\$46,056
Wholesale Trade	4,179	4,298	119	0.7%	\$52,644
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	3,475	3,393	-82	-0.6%	\$61,584
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	2,828	2,773	-55	-0.5%	\$29,436
Public Administration	2,511	2,500	-11	-0.1%	\$31,872

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The Southwest Region has higher concentrations in *Food Manufacturing*, *Animal Production*, *Truck Transportation*, *Electronic Equipment and Appliance Manufacturing*, and *Fabricated Metal Manufacturing*.



FOOD MANUFACTURING

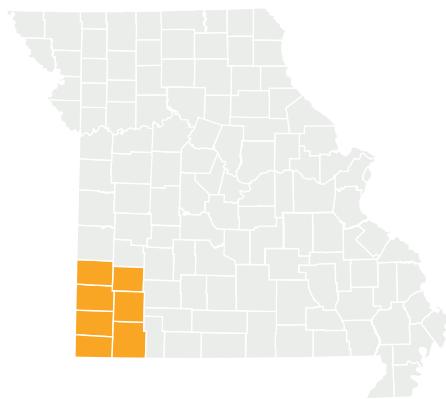
2020 Southwest Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Food Manufacturing	9,670	9.6
Animal Production & Aquaculture	921	5.5
Truck Transportation	3,488	3.8
Elec. Equip., Appliance, & Other Mfg.	826	3.4
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	2,969	3.4
Gasoline Stations	1,902	3.3
General Merchandise Stores	4,938	2.6
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	2,067	1.7
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,438	1.7
Wood Product Manufacturing	414	1.7
Nonmetallic Mineral Product Manufacturing	384	1.5
Furniture & Related Product Manufacturing	332	1.5
Broadcasting (except Internet)	210	1.4
Repair & Maintenance	1,082	1.3
Food Services & Drinking Places	8,173	1.3

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

SOUTHWEST REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the Southwest Region will be *Food Services and Drinking Places, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Merchant Wholesalers (Durable Goods), Hospitals, and General Merchandise Stores*.



Southwest Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Food Services & Drinking Places	8,501	9,576	1,075	12.6%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	4,117	4,963	846	20.5%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	2,274	2,832	558	24.5%
Hospitals	6,262	6,658	396	6.3%
General Merchandise Stores	4,613	4,992	379	8.2%
Couriers and Messengers	352	551	199	56.5%
Warehousing and Storage	1,233	1,384	151	12.3%
Specialty Trade Contractors	2,536	2,678	142	5.6%
Administrative & Support Services	4,739	4,869	130	2.7%
Local Government, Excl. Education & Hospitals	3,958	4,069	111	2.8%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

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Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Cashiers, and Retail Salespersons* which lead the way in total openings.

Personal Care Aides, Home Health Aides, and Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Including Fast Food are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers, Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Phlebotomists, Cooks, Restaurant, and Farm Equipment Mechanics and Service Technicians* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners, Substance Abuse, Behavioral Disorder, and Mental Health Counselors, and Speech-Language Pathologists* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

Southwest Region Fastest Growing Occupations

NOW	Personal Care Aides ★ Home Health Aides Food Preparation & Serving Workers ★ Light Truck or Delivery Services Drivers Taxi Drivers & Chauffeurs
NEXT	Phlebotomists Cooks, Restaurant Farm Equip. Mechanics & Service Techs. Respiratory Therapists Medical Assistants ★
LATER	Nurse Practitioners Mental Health & Subs. Abuse Counselor Speech-Language Pathologists Market Research Analysts & Marketing Mental Health & Subs. Abuse Social Worker

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

SOUTHWEST REGION

Southwest Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	3,323	3,919	596	289	356	705	\$19,271 ★
Cashiers	3,474	3,418	-56	308	342	644	\$19,632 ★
Retail Salespersons	3,757	3,848	91	218	337	564	\$22,222 ★
Personal Care Aides	2,440	3,433	993	217	192	508	\$20,961 ★
Laborers and Freight, Stock, and Material Movers	2,505	2,503	-2	113	235	348	\$25,839 ★
NEXT							
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	5,592	5,696	104	232	409	651	\$42,012 ★
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,818	2,532	-286	137	162	270	\$27,077
Nursing Assistants	1,833	1,969	136	102	111	227	\$23,292
Food Batchmakers	1,756	1,399	-357	95	139	198	\$34,847
First-Line Supervisors of Retail Sales Workers	1,486	1,467	-19	51	111	160	\$36,687 ★
LATER							
Registered Nurses	2,725	2,977	252	79	73	177	\$54,029 ★
General and Operations Managers	1,744	1,812	68	37	117	161	\$61,772 ★
Accountants and Auditors	650	683	33	19	43	65	\$57,589 ★
Substitute Teachers	341	362	21	20	20	42	\$21,019
Child, Family, and School Social Workers	354	371	17	11	25	38	\$36,625

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

ST. LOUIS

REGION



The St. Louis Region is comprised of five counties and is located in the east central part of Missouri. The region is home to several cities including Arnold, Washington, St. Charles, St. Peters, Florissant, O'Fallon, Chesterfield, and the City of St. Louis.

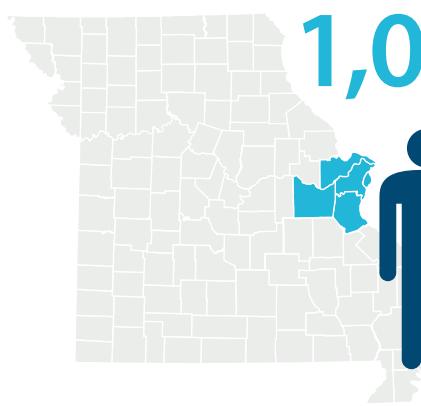
The St. Louis Region workforce has more than 1,003,000 employees, making up 33 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 51 percent of the workforce was female and 49 percent was male, which matches the Missouri average. The regional average unemployment rate for 2020 was 6.3 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the St. Louis Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 24 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 19 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 24 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 3 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the St. Louis Region, 8 percent of the region's population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The St. Louis Region has a lower percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state, but evenly matched to the nation. For the St. Louis Region, 10 percent of the population has a disability compared to 13 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



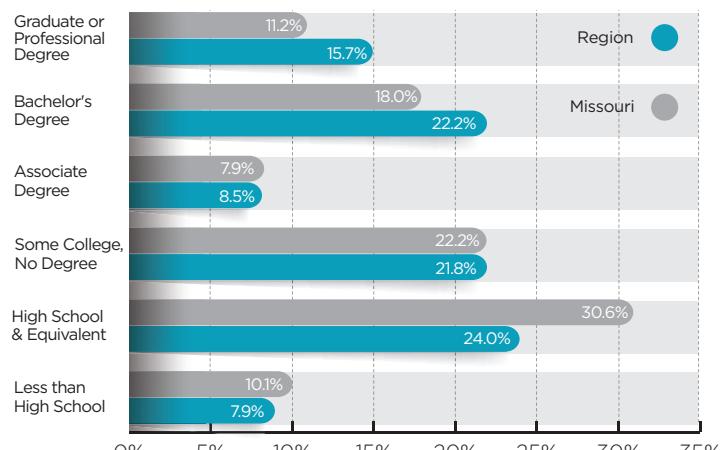
Workforce Demographics

	St. Louis MO	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	1,003,072	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	6.3%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	51%	51%	50%
Male	49%	49%	50%
Non-White	24%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	3%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	24%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	10%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	10%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	8%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	46%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the St. Louis Region are greater than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Forty-six percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



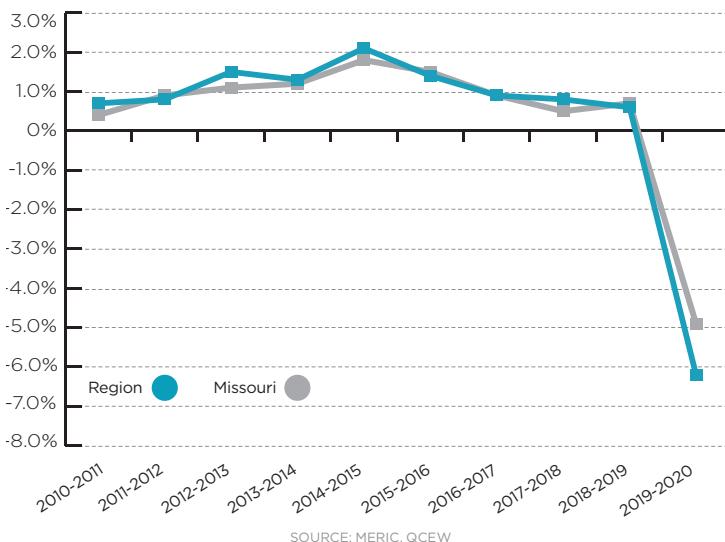
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

ST. LOUIS REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The St. Louis Region averaged over 1,012,800 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 66,700 jobs from 2019 to 2020, at a 6.2 percent decline. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the St. Louis Region averaged -1.0 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 4 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

St. Louis Employment Annual Growth Rate



Health Care and Social Assistance is the largest employing industry in the St. Louis region, with an employment of over 180,000. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry despite declining jobs at 2.7 percent a year since 2016. *Accommodation and Food Services* lost over 14,200 jobs in 2020 when compared to 2016. Most of this job loss was due to COVID-19 as this industry was negatively affected by the pandemic.

Manufacturing grew at an annualized rate of 0.4 percent. The industry sector with the largest increase in employment was *Finance and Insurance*, with an increase of over 6,800 jobs from 2016 to 2020.

St. Louis Region Top Employing Industries

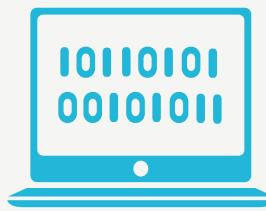
Industry	Employment		Net Change	2016-2020 CAGR	2019 Annual Wages	Location Quotient
	2016	2020				
Health Care & Social Assistance	175,102	180,069	4,967	0.7%	\$52,812	2.9
Retail Trade	115,179	103,444	-11,735	-2.7%	\$34,548	2.3
Manufacturing	92,746	94,081	1,335	0.4%	\$75,480	2.0
Accommodation & Food Services	100,143	85,925	-14,218	-3.8%	\$22,764	1.9
Administrative Support & Waste	82,462	75,096	-7,366	-2.3%	\$47,748	1.6
Educational Services	76,541	74,981	-1,560	-0.5%	\$49,620	1.6
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	70,064	72,239	2,175	0.8%	\$87,252	1.6
Finance and Insurance	57,226	64,060	6,834	2.9%	\$94,704	1.4
Construction	53,835	54,800	965	0.4%	\$67,980	1.4
Wholesale Trade	54,219	54,084	-135	-0.1%	\$80,172	1.4
Mngmt. of Companies & Enterprise	41,895	42,097	202	0.1%	\$108,204	1.4
Transportation & Warehousing	35,678	38,938	3,260	2.2%	\$51,300	1.4

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The St. Louis Region has higher concentrations in *Data Processing, Hosting, and Related Services*; *Management of Companies*; *Chemical Manufacturing*; and *Museums, Historical Sites, and Similar Institutions*.



**HIGHEST 2020
LQ 2.9**

DATA PROCESSING, HOSTING, AND RELATED SERVICES

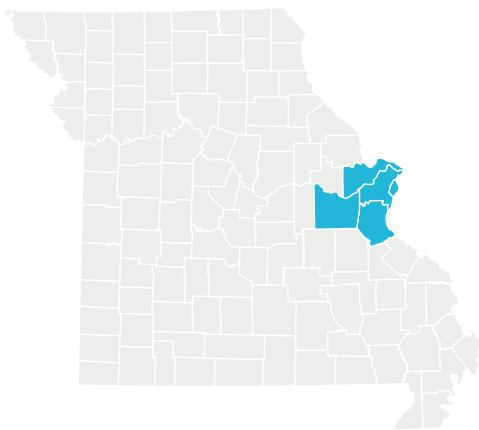
2020 St. Louis Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Data Processing, Hosting, & Related Services	7,501	2.9
Management of Companies & Enterprises	37,924	2.3
Chemical Manufacturing	11,523	2.0
Museums, Historical Sites, & Similar Instit.	2,734	1.9
Beverage & Tobacco Product Manufacturing	3,142	1.6
Securities & Financial Invest. Activities	10,603	1.6
Printing & Related Support Activities	4,221	1.6
Machinery Manufacturing	11,377	1.6
Hospitals	65,532	1.4
Telecommunications	6,866	1.4
Broadcasting (except Internet)	2,407	1.4
Social Assistance	39,899	1.4
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	29,790	1.4
Insurance Carriers & Related Activities	23,212	1.4
Postal Service	5,765	1.4

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

ST. LOUIS REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the St. Louis Region will be *Hospitals, Ambulatory Health Care Services, Nonstore Retailers, Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services, Food Services and Drinking Places, and Educational Services*.



St. Louis Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Hospitals	69,463	80,126	10,663	15.4%
Ambulatory Health Care Services	47,684	55,162	7,478	15.7%
Nonstore Retailers	5,157	8,828	3,671	71.2%
Professional, Scientific, & Technical Services	65,166	68,616	3,450	5.3%
Food Services & Drinking Places	88,704	92,072	3,368	3.8%
Educational Services	82,403	85,543	3,140	3.8%
Data Processing, Hosting & Related Services	6,265	9,125	2,860	45.7%
Merchant Wholesalers, Durable Goods	28,651	31,391	2,740	9.6%
Specialty Trade Contractors	34,062	36,123	2,061	6.1%
Warehousing & Storage	4,184	5,731	1,547	37.0%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Personal Care Aides, and Cashiers* which lead the way in total openings. *Personal Care Aides, Home Health Aides, and Cargo and Freight Agents* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Cooks, and Nursing Assistants* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Respiratory Therapists, Occupational Therapy Assistants, and Phlebotomists* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations, *Registered Nurses, General and Operations Managers, and Accountants and Auditors* will have the most openings. *Physician Assistants, Information Security Analysts, and Statisticians* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

St. Louis Region Fastest Growing Occupations



NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

ST. LOUIS REGION

St. Louis Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	30,802	33,644	2,842	2,569	3,169	6,022	\$19,946 ★
Personal Care Aides	26,912	36,536	9,624	2,344	2,078	5,384	\$22,690
Cashiers	23,903	22,305	-1,598	2,062	2,296	4,198	\$22,046
Retail Salespersons	31,298	28,254	-3,044	1,711	2,638	4,045	\$24,292 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	18,932	18,661	-271	1,304	2,303	3,580	\$19,131 ★
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	26,049	23,215	-2,834	1,262	1,495	2,474	\$37,246 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	11,607	13,091	1,484	656	1,091	1,895	\$25,217
Nursing Assistants	14,506	15,979	1,473	819	889	1,855	\$25,356 ★
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	12,836	14,104	1,268	555	977	1,659	\$50,327 ★
Bookkeeping, Accounting, and Auditing Clerks	13,016	12,128	-888	765	700	1,376	\$38,240
LATER							
Registered Nurses	33,480	39,121	5,641	1,007	931	2,502	\$64,889 ★
General and Operations Managers	18,980	19,790	810	406	1,277	1,764	\$102,537 ★
Accountants and Auditors	12,347	12,708	361	353	814	1,203	\$70,735 ★
Business Operations Specialists, All Other	7,199	7,547	348	200	508	743	\$72,932
Software Developers, Applications	7,292	8,754	1,462	111	454	711	\$98,176 ★

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



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This workforce solution was funded by a grant awarded by the U.S. Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration. The solution was created by the grantee and does not necessarily reflect the official position of the U.S. Department of Labor. The Department of Labor makes no guarantees, warranties, or assurances of any kind, express or implied, with respect to such information, including any information on linked sites and including, but not limited to, accuracy of the information or its completeness, timeliness, usefulness, adequacy, continued availability, or ownership.

2021 ECONOMIC REPORT

WEST CENTRAL

REGION



The West Central Region is comprised of 13 counties in the west central part of Missouri. This region is home to cities including Warrensburg, Sedalia, Lexington, Clinton, and Nevada.

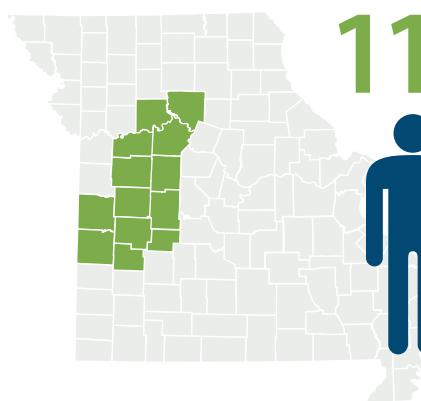
The West Central Region workforce has more than 119,600 employees, making up 4 percent of Missouri's employment. In 2020, 53 percent of the workforce was female and 47 percent was male. The regional average unemployment rate for 2020 was 5.6 percent.

The workforce is getting older in the West Central Region, a trend happening throughout Missouri and the U.S. In 2020, 26 percent of the workforce was age 55 or older, up from 22 percent a decade earlier.

For the region, 7 percent of the workforce was non-white, compared to 17 percent for the state; 5 percent of the region's workforce was Hispanic or Latino, compared to 4 percent for Missouri.

In the West Central Region 5 percent of the population (ages 18 to 64) speaks a language other than English at home. By comparison, Missouri was at 7 percent and the U.S. was at 23 percent.

The West Central Region has a higher percentage of the population with a disability compared to the state and the nation. For the West Central Region, 16 percent of the population has a disability compared to 12 percent in Missouri and 10 percent in the U.S.



119,600
EMPLOYEES
4%
OF MISSOURI'S
EMPLOYMENT

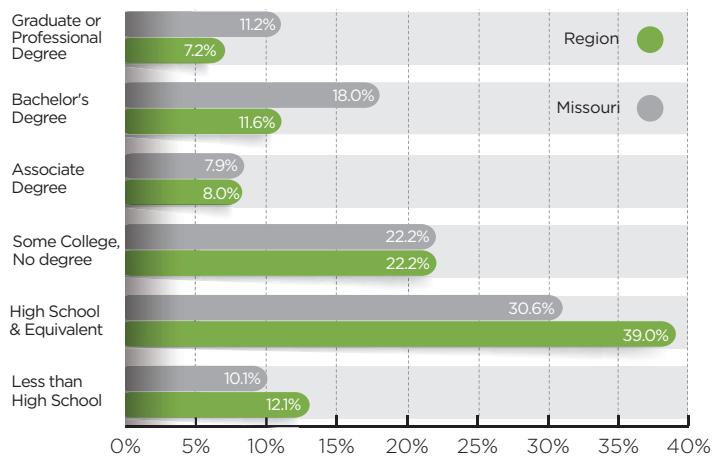
Workforce Demographics

	WC Region	Missouri	Nationwide
Average Monthly Employment in 2020	119,658	3,052,700	147,795,000
Average Unemployment Rate in 2020	5.6%	6.1%	8.1%
Female	53%	51%	50%
Male	47%	49%	50%
Non-White	7%	17%	24%
Hispanic or Latino	5%	4%	16%
Ages 55 and Older	26%	24%	24%
With Disabilities (Ages 18-64)	16%	12%	10%
Below Poverty Levels (Ages 18-64)	16%	13%	13%
Language other than English (Ages 18-64)	5%	7%	23%
Education of Associate Degree or Higher	27%	37%	41%

SOURCES: CENSUS ACS 2019-5YR EST.; LEHD 2ND QUARTER; BLS LAUS 2020

Educational attainment rates for the West Central Region are lower than those of the state in regards to bachelor's or advanced degrees. Twenty-seven percent of the region's population, age 25 and older, has an associate, bachelor's, or advanced degree compared to 37 percent for the state.

Educational Attainment



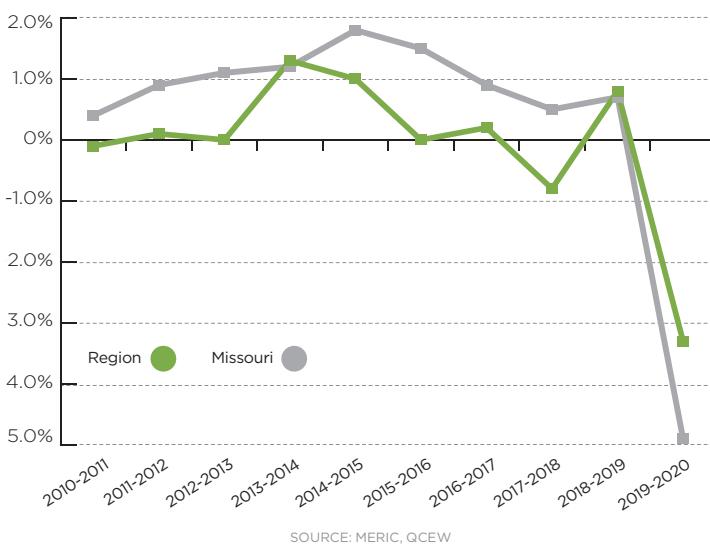
SOURCE: US CENSUS BUREAU, ACS 2019 5-YEAR ESTIMATES

WEST CENTRAL REGION

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

The West Central Region averaged over 81,200 jobs in 2020. The region lost over 2,800 jobs from 2019 to 2020, resulting in a -3.3 percent employment growth. Missouri employment decreased by 4.9 percent in that time. From 2016 to 2020, the West Central Region averaged -0.8 percent annual growth for an overall decrease of 3.2 percent; during that same period Missouri's employment declined by 2.9 percent.

West Central Employment Annual Growth Rate



The *Health Care and Social Assistance* industry continues to be one of the largest employing industries in the region with over 16,000 jobs. *Retail Trade* is the second largest industry in the area, even though it lost over 1,000 jobs from 2016 to 2020.

The industries of *Construction*; *Wholesale Trade*; and *Professional, Scientific, and Technical Services* had the largest employment gains from 2016 to 2020.

West Central Region Top Employing Industries

Industry	Employment 2016	Employment 2020	Net Change	2016-2020 Empl. CAGR	2019 Annual Wages
Health Care & Social Assistance	15,755	16,001	246	0.4%	\$36,924
Retail Trade	10,468	9,414	-1,054	-2.6%	\$28,812
Accommodation & Food Services	6,967	6,291	-676	-2.5%	\$15,588
Construction	3,481	3,845	364	2.5%	\$44,760
Public Administration	3,810	3,790	-20	-0.1%	\$26,592
Wholesale Trade	2,852	3,088	236	2.0%	\$56,316
Finance & Insurance	2,512	2,475	-37	-0.4%	\$49,452
Other Services (except Public Admin.)	2,057	2,005	-52	-0.6%	\$29,460
Transportation & Warehousing	2,138	1,959	-179	-2.2%	\$39,756
Professional, Scientific, & Tech. Servs.	1,705	1,899	194	2.7%	\$54,456

SOURCE: LEHD-QWI, 2016-2020 2ND QUARTER

LOCATION QUOTIENT

To understand the major industries within a region, an analysis of industry concentration or clustering can be useful. The Location Quotient (LQ) describes the concentration of an industry in a geographic region, in relation to the nation, with 1.0 being the national average. Industries higher than 1.0 indicate a concentration.

The West Central Region has higher concentrations in *Gas Stations*, *National Security and International Affairs*, *Support Activities for Agriculture and Forestry*, *Animal Production*, and *Food Manufacturing*.



**HIGHEST 2020
LQ 4.9
GASOLINE STATIONS**

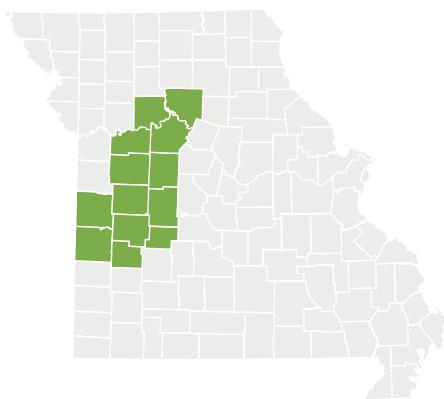
2020 West Central Region Location Quotients

Industry	Employment	Location Quotient
Gasoline Stations	1,757	4.9
National Security & International Affairs	974	4.1
Support Activities for Agriculture & Forestry	521	3.6
Animal Production & Aquaculture	333	3.2
Food Manufacturing	1,909	3.1
Primary Metal Manufacturing	410	3.0
Nursing & Residential Care Facilities	3,634	2.8
Machinery Manufacturing	1,124	2.8
Fabricated Metal Product Manufacturing	1,447	2.7
Postal Service	562	2.4
Motor Vehicle & Parts Dealers	1,615	2.2
Crop Production	437	2.1
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,650	2.1
Bldg. Material & Garden Equip. Dealers	1,053	2.0
General Merchandise Stores	2,193	1.9

SOURCE: BUREAU OF LABOR STATISTICS, QCEW

WEST CENTRAL REGION

Projected growth by industry helps to identify future employment needs for an area. Projections indicate that the largest growth industries in the West Central Region will be *Administrative and Support Services, Social Assistance, Construction of Buildings, Merchant Wholesalers (Nondurable Goods), and Educational Services*.



West Central Region Largest Growth Industries 2018-2028

Industry	Employment		Change	
	2018 Estimated	2028 Projected	Numeric	Percent
Administrative & Support Services	1,460	1,813	353	24.2%
Social Assistance	3,337	3,648	311	9.3%
Construction of Buildings	639	947	308	48.2%
Merchant Wholesalers, Nondurable Goods	1,460	1,730	270	18.5%
Educational Services	9,719	9,951	232	2.4%
Crop Production	1,194	1,390	196	16.4%
Food Services & Drinking Places	6,998	7,176	178	2.5%
Support Activities for Agriculture & Forestry	640	801	161	25.2%
Transit & Ground Passenger Transportation	522	681	159	30.5%
Local Government, Excl. Education & Hospitals	5,220	5,365	145	2.8%

SOURCES: MERIC INDUSTRY PROJECTIONS

PROJECTED GROWTH BY INDUSTRY HELPS TO IDENTIFY FUTURE EMPLOYMENT NEEDS FOR AN AREA.

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC produces occupational projections that estimate labor demand over a 10-year period. MERIC categorizes these occupations using its Now-Next-Later method to help job seekers understand the training, education, and experience requirements for various occupations.

Now jobs typically require short-term on-the-job training, little to no experience, and/or a high school diploma. Now occupations include *Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers, Cashiers, and Personal Care Aides* which lead the way in total openings. *Bus Drivers, School or Special Client, Helpers-Production Workers, and Personal Care Aides* are projected to be the fastest growing Now occupations over the next decade.

Next jobs typically require a non-degree certificate, associate degree, apprenticeship, some experience, or moderate- to long-term training. *Secretaries and Administrative Assistants, Nursing Assistants, and Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers* will have the most openings for the Next category of occupations. *Agricultural Equipment Operators, Carpenters, and Respiratory Therapists* are the fastest growing Next occupations.

Later jobs typically require a bachelor's degree or higher. For Later occupations *Secondary School Teachers, General and Operations Managers, and Substitute Teachers* will have the most openings. *Nurse Practitioners, Nursing Instructors and Teachers, Postsecondary, and Market Research Analysts and Marketing Specialists* are the fastest growing Later occupations.

West Central Region Fastest Growing Occupations

	 NOW	Bus Drivers, School or Special Client Helpers--Production Workers Personal Care Aides ★ Nonfarm Animal Caretakers Cleaners of Vehicles and Equipment
	 NEXT	Agricultural Equipment Operators Carpenters Respiratory Therapists Animal Trainers Supvrs. of Constr. Trades & Extr. Workers
	 LATER	Nurse Practitioners Nursing Instructors & Teachers, (Postsec.) Market Research Analysts & Marketing Management Analysts Mental Health & Subs. Abuse Counselor

NOTE: OCCUPATIONS WITH NET INCREASE OF LESS THAN 50 ARE OMITTED

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS, 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS TOP TEN ONLINE JOB ADS FOR 2020-2021 IN THE REGION AND WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATIONS

WEST CENTRAL REGION

West Central Region Long-Term Occupational Projections by Top Openings

Occupation	2018 Estimated Employment	2028 Projected Employment	Growth Openings	Exits	Transfers	Total Openings	Median Wages
NOW							
Combined Food Preparation and Serving Workers	3,173	3,367	194	261	322	602	\$18,824 ★
Cashiers	2,741	2,687	-54	242	270	507	\$19,421 ★
Personal Care Aides	2,704	3,238	534	220	195	468	\$21,670 ★
Retail Salespersons	2,585	2,555	-30	148	228	373	\$22,746 ★
Waiters and Waitresses	1,526	1,485	-41	104	184	284	\$18,765
NEXT							
Secretaries and Administrative Assistants	2,370	2,120	-250	115	136	226	\$29,917
Nursing Assistants	1,865	1,882	17	101	109	212	\$21,670 ★
Heavy and Tractor-Trailer Truck Drivers	1,487	1,606	119	64	112	188	\$36,555 ★
Cooks, Restaurant	1,070	1,176	106	60	99	170	\$21,374
Welders, Cutters, Solderers, and Brazers	1,222	1,273	51	32	105	142	\$35,111
LATER							
Secondary School Teachers	2,001	2,050	49	56	86	147	\$44,190
General and Operations Managers	1,223	1,292	69	26	83	116	\$56,812 ★
Substitute Teachers	989	1,013	24	58	56	116	\$27,276
Registered Nurses	1,495	1,561	66	42	39	88	\$58,855 ★
Elementary School Teachers	1,045	1,071	26	33	45	81	\$39,171

SOURCE: MERIC OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS 2018-2028

★ DENOTES OCCUPATIONS IN THE TOP TEN FOR 2020-2021 ON-LINE JOB ADS IN THE REGION & WITHIN THE NOW-NEXT-LATER CLASSIFICATION



This report was prepared by the staff of the Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) as part of the Missouri Workforce Report. All data in this report was current at the time of publication and is subject to revision. Additional details on data sources can be found in the full report.

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DATA SOURCES

GROSS DOMESTIC PRODUCT

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual Gross Domestic Product by State. Real GDP in chained 2012 dollars.

<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step>

PERSONAL INCOME

U.S. Bureau of Economic Analysis. Annual Personal Income and Employment by State. Current dollars (not adjusted for inflation).

<https://apps.bea.gov/iTable/iTable.cfm?reqid=70&step>

Cost of Living

The Council for Community and Economic Research (C2ER). Cost of Living Index.

<https://www.coli.org/>

CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Demographics from the Current Population Survey.

<https://www.bls.gov/cps/demographics.htm>

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#unemployment>

EMPLOYMENT & UNEMPLOYMENT

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#unemployment>

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Current Employment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/data/#employment>

MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages.

U.S. Dept. of Labor, Employment and Training Administration (ETA). The Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act of 2014.

<https://www.doleta.gov/wioa/>

WORKFORCE DEMOGRAPHICS

Disability, Poverty Level, Language, Educational Attainment

U.S. Census Bureau.

American Community Survey (ACS) 2019 5 Year Estimates.

<https://data.census.gov/cedsci/>

Employment and Unemployment

U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

Local Area Unemployment Statistics.

<https://www.bls.gov/lau/#tables>

Sex, Age, Race, Ethnicity

U.S. Census Bureau. Longitudinal Employer Household Dynamics (LEHD). LED Extraction Tool. 2020 1st quarter.

<https://ledextract.ces.census.gov/static/data.html>

INDUSTRY ANALYSIS

Missouri Economic Research and Information Center (MERIC) in cooperation with Bureau of Labor Statistics (BLS). Quarterly Census of Employment and Wages (QCEW).

https://data.bls.gov/cew/apps/data_views/data_views.htm#tab=Tables

OCCUPATIONAL PROJECTIONS

MERIC in cooperation with Burning Glass Technologies.

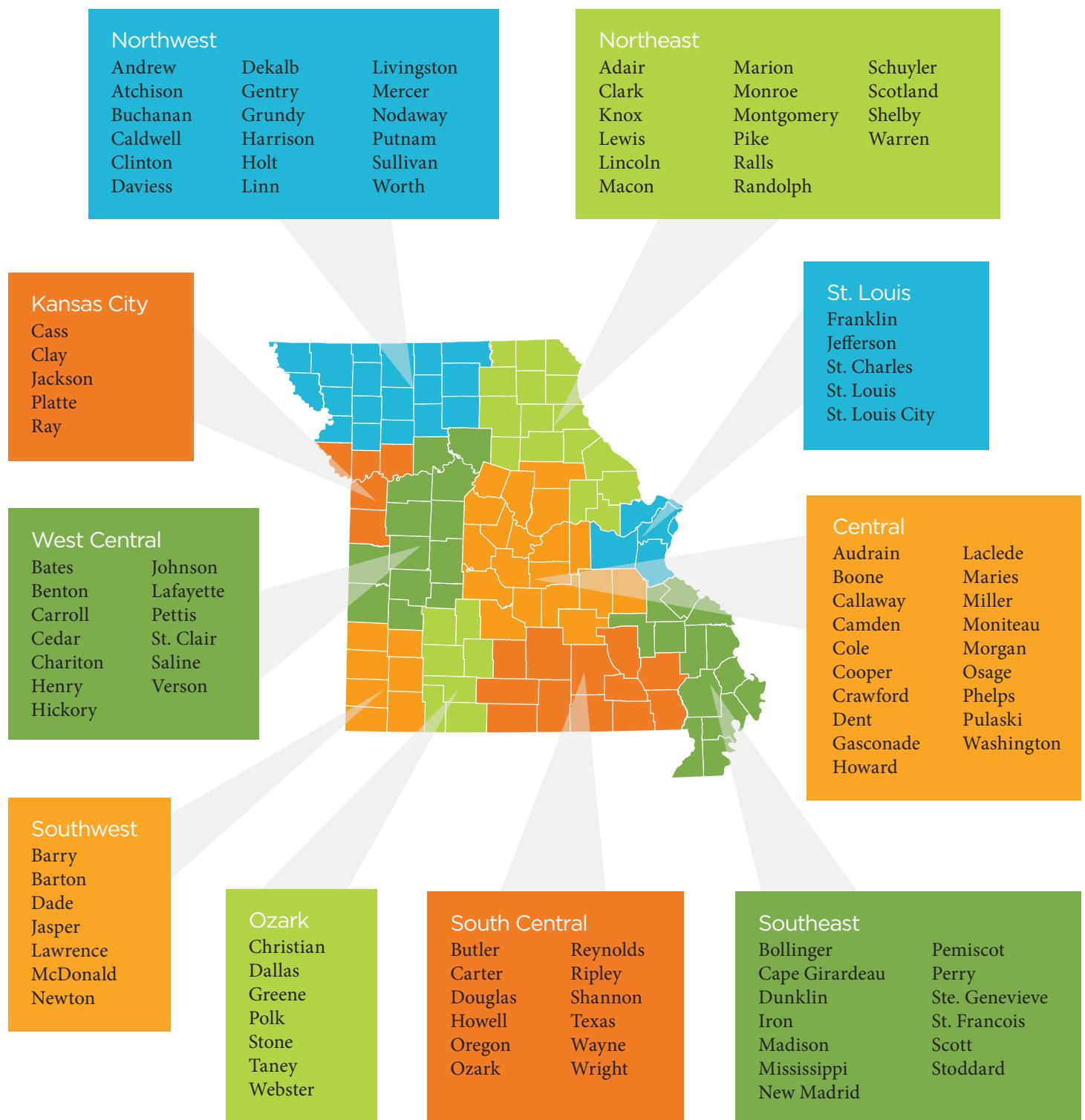
Labor Insight.TM

MERIC in cooperation with the U.S. Dept. of Labor, Bureau of Labor Statistics. Occupational Employment Projections.

<https://meric.mo.gov/workforce-research/occupational-projections>

APPENDIX

MISSOURI WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT REGIONS BY COUNTY





dhewd.mo.gov



meric.mo.gov